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CONTIN

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'ARAFAT, PALESTINIAN LEADERS MEET WITH PCI DELEGATION

JN191609Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 19 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Excecutive Committee and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, yesterday evening chaired an official meeting between the PLO and the Italian Communist Party [PCI]. Present on the Palestinian side were brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department; brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the information department of the PLO; brother Abu Hatim, official in charge of foreign relations in the Fatah movement; and brother Ribhi 'Awad, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. The Italian delegation was headed by Comrade Giancarlo Pajetta.

The meeting dealt with the current Arab situation and the repercussions of As-Sadat's recent moves and their impact on the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian cause in particular. The talks also dealt with the international political situation, the official Italian stand on the situation in Italy, and the stand taken by the Italian Communist Party itself.

Comrade Pajetta affirmed during the meeting the PCI's firm stand regarding the Palestinian problem. He said that this official visit by the representatives of the PCI expresses the clear stand of solidarity with the PLO.

Brother Abu 'Ammar welcomed the delegation and praised the positive stand of the PCI concerning the Palestinian problem and the PCI's support for the PLO and for all the democratic states in the world, especially the Soviet Union.

The PCI delegation, led by Politburo member Comrade Pajetta, also included the official in charge of foreign relations in the party and deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Italian parliament Comrade [name indistinct]. The delegation arrived in Beirut yesterday and was received by brother Abu Hatim, official in charge of foreign relations in the Fatah movement; brother Ribhi 'Awad, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; and a number of Palestinian revolutionary cadre.

Upon arrival Comrade Pajetta said that he will convey a special message from Comrade Enrico Berlinguer, secretary general of the PCI to brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman.

The delegation will also visit Syria and Iraq and hold talks on the current Arab situation.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEW CARRIED ON SKOPJE TELEVISION

LD201606Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1436 GMT 20 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Skopje--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, received the well-known Macedonian writer Ante Popovski in Beirut and gave him an exclusive interview, which was broadcast by Skopje television last night. In the interview Chairman 'Arafat gave a detailed analysis of the Middle East situation and spoke of the further tasks of the Palestinian revolution.

'Arafat recalled that over the past 15 days Carter has made 13 statements in which he has come out against the Palestinian revolution and the PLO. Carter is not doing this by chance. Carter knows well, 'Arafat said, that the PLO is today recognized by 105 states, and this fact is significant, bearing in mind that Israel is not recognized by as many countries. Therefore, the essence of all conflicts in the Middle East has been and will remain Palestine.

In answer to the question of how he assessed the Tripoli meeting, 'Arafat replied that the participants in the meeting in Tripoli were unable to accept the conditions dictated by the Americans through Israel and As-Sadat. These are not conditions. They constitute an ultimatum, 'Arafat said. For this very reason the progressive Arab world met in Tripoli. Tripoli strirred up the Arab region. This unrest is present today in Egypt. It is present in Algiers, Syria, Iraq and Libya. It is present, in fact, throughout the Arab world. It is present as opposition, as a reaction to the betrayal of Arab interests, to the betrayal of our revolution after the meetings in Jerusalem and Ismailia between As-Sadat and Begin. It shows that the struggle against the Palestinian revolution will continue, and the longer it continues, the more the revolutionary consciousness of the Arab world will grow, 'Arafat said.

The Palestinian revolution is the progressive revolutionary movement not only of Palestine but of the whole Arab world. Therefore, Palestine and its revolution must primarily be seen at the center of the Middle East crisis.

Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the basic goals of the Palestinian revolution are the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland, and the creation of a free Palestinian state. "One day we will achieve this, and that day is not far off. We will achieve it because our just cause is today supported and aided by the whole progressive world. We are helped by all countries which love freedom and peace. All progressive people of the Arab world are with us. All African and Asian countries, all the socialist countries and a big section of the Western bloc is with us, in particular, the most important part, the progressive part of France, Italy, Austria, Great Britain, Sweden, the United States and so forth. The cause of the Palestinian revolution is the cause of the conscience of mankind. Our revolution lasts and will last right until the last Palestinian," 'Arafat said.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH JUNBLATT, AS-SADAR IN BEIRUT

JN251525Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar met yesterday with brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the current Palestinian, Arab and international situations. Brother Abu 'Ammar also met with Imam Musa as-Sadar yesterday evening. They discussed the latest developments in the current situation.

SYRIA, IRAQ TO HOLD BILATERAL MEETING IN ALGIERS

LD261050Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1025 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--JANA has learned that a bilateral meeting is to be held in Algiers between Syria and Iraq in the next few days. The agency also has learned that during this meeting bilateral relations between the two countries are to be discussed.

KUWAIT

IBRD'S MCNAMARA MEETS AMIR, FINANCE MINISTER

LD2511047 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir, received at 0900 today at As-Sif Palace Finance Minister 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-Atiqi, who presented to the amir Robert McNamara, chairman of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, on the occasion of the latter's visit to the country. The U.S. ambassador to Kuwait was present.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR

NC2516527 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 25 January--Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad today met with Egyptian Ambassador Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq. The Kuwaiti foreign minister said after the meeting that the Egyptian ambassador conveyed to him a message from Cairo reaffirming Egypt's commitment to President Anwar as-Sadat's declarations at the People's Assembly that the Arab territories will not be forfeited and that Egypt wants Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The minister also said that during the meeting views were exchanged on the present Arab situation, especially in connection with the consultations and efforts made to mend the rift in the Arab ranks. The Egyptian ambassador said that he and the Kuwaiti foreign minister reviewed all aspects of the situation in light of the latest developments as part of the continuous consultations between the two countries.

AL-WATAN SUSPENDED FOR SPECULATING ON CABINET

JN251855Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Kuwaiti authorities have decided to suspend the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN for 7 days as of tomorrow, 26 January. A decision issued by the Kuwaiti information minister says that AL-WATAN has been suspended because it violated censorship instructions and published speculation about the formation of the Kuwaiti Cabinet under Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali, minister of information. The Kuwaiti information minister again cautioned the Kuwaiti newspapers not to publish speculation on the question of the formation of the Kuwaiti Cabinet. AL-WATAN said that Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali is expected to form the new cabinet after Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad completes his consultations in this connection with the National Assembly members.

LOANS GRANTED SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY, BAHRAIN

NC2611171 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 January--Two separate loan agreements were signed here today by the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, one with the Suez Canal Authority and the other with Bahrain. Under the first agreement, the fund will grant the Suez Canal Authority a loan of 6 million Kuwaiti dinars for financing the canal's development projects. Under the second agreement, the fund will grant Bahrain a loan of 6.15 million Kuwaiti dinars for financing the Ar-Rifa' power generating station and transmission and distribution grid.

OMAN

VOICE OF PFLO SCORES U.S., IRANIAN IMPERIALISM

LD242242Y Tripoli Voice of Popular Front for Liberation of Oman in Arabic to Oman 2000 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Reports reaching us from Muscat say that last week military concentrations of forces of the agent regime of Muscat stationed along the borders of Ra's al-Khaymah and composed of foreign mercenaries and tribal contingents, backed by the Iranian forces invaders of Omani territory, were able to occupy an oilfield in the area of Ra's al-Khaymah [in the UAE]. These reports stress that after capturing it the agent forces of Qabus handed over this oilfield to the Iranian forces occupying Omani territory. This occupation followed last month's visit of the shah, agent of American imperialism, to Qabus.

Brothers: Day after day the links of the American imperialist plan bent on occupying and tightly controlling the oil resources in Oman and the Arabian Gulf region are being exposed. This plan was drawn up by circles in the Pentagon and was handed over to the Iranian Army, which is armed with the most modern American weapons, to enable it to play the role given to it by its American imperialist masters in cooperation with its ally, the agent Qabus. The west bank of the Arabian Gulf is to be a starting point and a point of concentration for the Iranian expansionist movement to swallow the region piece by piece. The occupation of the oilfield in Ra's al-Khaymah comes as a first point of action in the provisions of the American plan declared by the imperialist Carter at the end of last year, according to which he placed the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf regions within the strategy of American defense because of the great importance of this region, which controls the strategic throat of the Strait of Hormoz which now is under Iranian protection.

Brothers: One cannot exclude the possibility that Iran may occupy the sources of oil in the Arabian Gulf. There are precedents in this matter: Iran occupied the Omani islands in the Arabian Gulf in 1971. It also invaded Oman and fought the Omani revolution there.

A matter which attracts attention here is the entry of another party into the dispute--the so-called Oman sultanate--which forms the weakest link in the chain of American influence in the region. It seems the purpose of this is to give an Arab nature to this occupation.

QATAR

WESTERN POWERS ASKED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES

NC251647Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 25 January--Qatar today asked France to assume its responsibilities with regard to the extremely dangerous situation in the Middle East because of Israel's intransigent stand and insistence on its aggressive attitude and expansionist intentions in the area. Doha radio has said that Qatari Ruler Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today summoned French Ambassador in Doha Bernard Lopinot and gave him an oral message to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on Qatar's views on the current situation in the Middle East.

Earlier the ruler summoned the U.S. and British ambassadors for the same purpose, within the framework of Qatar's moves to explain the Arab viewpoint. The radio said that the ruler of Qatar has also summoned the West German ambassador to meet with him for the same purpose. The meeting will take place next week because the ambassador is now outside Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

SOVIET THREAT IN MIDEAST, HORN OF AFRICA NOTED

LD252138Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 24 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] Some Arabs are still taken in by Soviet biased propaganda. These people are still deliberately ignoring the objective realities of the Soviet role and the fact that the Soviets want the state of tension in the Middle East to continue so that the need for them will continue. In this way they will be able to fully control the destiny and wealth of the area.

For example, some allege that it was because of Russian arms that Arab victory was achieved in 1973. But such people deliberately forget that victory would not have been achieved had not the Russians been expelled from Egypt and, as a result, Egypt become free to make its own decisions, and that it was the firm stand of the supporting countries with the confrontation states that brought about this victory. Some even deliberately ignore the fact that it was because of the presence of large quantities of Russian arms and because of Soviet infiltration that we suffered the destructive defeat in 1967, the defeat from which we are still suffering.

Soviet plans in the Middle East and Africa are no longer a secret to anybody. The Soviet Union is paving the way to invade Somalia by turning Ethiopia into an armed garrison threatening the security of the area and of the Horn of Africa. The Soviet Union raises false peace slogans so that through such slogans it can entice naive and simple people and be able to achieve its ambitions.

If one closely examines the Soviet theory and ideology he will find out without much effort the nature of the Soviet role. Its role is to destroy humanity throught violence, class struggle, elimination of individuality and human incentive, and to spread atheism to achieve its objectives.

This ideology of the Soviet Union is similar to the Zionist policy of expansion by force and colonialism despite its allegations to the contrary. Therefore, Arabs must clearly understand the Soviet role lest they be dragged into the abyss being created by the Soviet presence, which represents the epitome of world colonialism.

We must clearly understand and be wary of the Russian strategy in general and in the Middle East and Africa in particular. We have hundreds of examples to learn from, whether in Ethiopia, Angola or elsewhere. One way to do this is to reread the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the beginning.

YEMEN--PDRY

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN260819Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 26 January--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PDRY prime minister, has said that his visit to Iraq resulted in complete agreement on confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught. He said this will consolidate the role of the Arab progressive forces in opposing imperialism, Zionism and the capitulatory policy. In a press statement following his return here last evening from a visit to Iraq, he added that he exchanged viewpoints with Iraqi officials on the current Arab situation and pointed out that Iraq has an important role in the progressive Arab efforts being exerted against the capitulatory solutions to which the Arab area is exposed.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR 25 JAN

NC251603Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 January--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat this afternoon received U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. The meeting took place at the Al-'Abbasiyah police academy before today's meeting of the Higher Police Council which was chaired by President Anwar as-Sadat.

AS-SADAT ATTENDS POLICE ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

[Editorial report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0845 GMT on 25 January 1978 begins a live broadcast from the police academy building in Al-'Abbasiyah in Cairo to relay the ceremonies organized to mark the silver jubilee of the police force. The announcer says that Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, Director of the president's office Hasan Kamil, officials of the Republican Palace and Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il are waiting for President as-Sadat to arrive. President as-Sadat arrives at the police academy at 0906 GMT. He reviews an honor guard and the Egyptian National Anthem is played.

At 0922 GMT Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il welcomes As-Sadat, citing the October war and the peace initiative as achievements of the president. He also praises the heroism manifested by the police in various past battles and praises the martyrs of the police and of the armed forces. In conclusion, Minister Isma'il invokes God to protect As-Sadat and guide his steps. The speech ends at 0930 GMT, after which Minister Isma'il presents As-Sadat with a gift from the police force.

Following a parade and demonstrations of police procedures, at 1130 GMT the master of ceremonies announces that Sudanese Vice President Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr is present at the ceremony and welcomes him and his delegation. The master of ceremonies then announces that medals are being presented to Bakr, People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i, and Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. At 1140 GMT the announcer says that the ceremony has ended and that President as-Sadat is on his way to the police academy building to inaugurate a commemorative hall for the late amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah. At 1141 GMT Cairo radio resumes its regular programming.

Meets With Press

NC251726Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1704 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today made some statements to reporters after his meeting with the Higher Police Council. He made these statements to representatives of the news agencies, radio and television stations. Our correspondent Salah Radwan reports:

After the meeting of the Higher Police Council under President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, world news agency and radio and television reporters met with him. They inquired about the latest developments in the situation. The president announced that Alfred Atherton, assistant U.S. secretary of state, will arrive in Cairo within the next few days to hold talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil on the present situation concerning Egypt and Israel.

Asked when the Geneva conference will convene, the president emphasized that the Cairo preparatory conference is a preparatory conference for the Geneva conference and that when agreement is reached on a declaration of intentions between Egypt and Israel we will proceed on this course.

Referring to the recent press statements by both sides, the president said he has no objection to the present period being one of relative calm for both sides.

The president also announced that he met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts yesterday and today and that he sent a message to U.S. President Carter on the current situation.

Receives Message From Carter

NC251607Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 January--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat announced that he received a message from U.S. President Jimmy Carter today. He said he will not disclose the contents of the message at present. President as-Sadat made the announcement in a statement to press representatives after the conclusion of the police college silver jubilee celebrations.

President as-Sadat said he sent a message to President Carter yesterday. U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts conveyed the U.S. President's reply to the message today.

AS-SADAT ATTENDS RELIGIOUS CEREMONY, SPEAKS

NC252032Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 January--This evening President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat attended the opening of the new shrine housing the tomb of As-Sayidah Zaynab, may God be pleased with her. The new shrine has been presented by the Bhora sect. The ceremony was attended by the sultan of the Bhora sect, (Muhammad Burhan ad-Din), Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, the deputies of the prime minister and the ministers.

The president knelt twice, giving thanks to God. The ceremony began with a chanting of some Koranic verses. The sultan of the Bhora sect then delivered a speech. President as-Sadat also delivered a speech on the occasion.

In his speech, President as-Sadat said: Brothers and sons, in the name of the people who protected Islam through the noble Al-Azhar for approximately 1,000 years, I welcome you, honorable brother and honorable brothers on the land of Egypt, the land of struggle, faith, fortitude and heroism.

The president added: Your visit to Egypt, together with this elite group of brothers, and your presentation of this shrine for the granddaughter of God's prophet, As-Sayidah Zaynab, who chose Egypt as a place of residence and abode after all that happened and all that she endured [incomplete sentence as received].

She lived here in this very spot, may God be pleased with her. We welcome you, brother. Your generous gift of this magnificent shrine is proof of attachment and love for the prophet's family.

President as-Sadat said: Egypt, to which you have come at a time when it is struggling to uphold the word of God, is struggling for the restoration of the lost holy places in Jerusalem, our Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first of the two Kiblahs and the second holy place.

President as-Sadat said: Honorable brother, Egypt is bearing the banner of struggle for the recovery of that mosque so that it will be sacred, as it has been throughout the ages and days, for every visitor and believer who wishes to see the place to which the prophet Muhammad journeyed at night, may God's prayers be upon him. By your visit and your generous gift, it is as if you are telling your kinsmen and brothers in Egypt to increase their struggle and fortitude in their right to recover all the holy places.

President as-Sadat said: I say to you, in the name of the people, that you are welcome. May God bless you and your sect and reward you most generously on behalf of Egypt, the people of Egypt and the prophet's family.

The president added: Your gift at this particular time has significance because it concerns us in our upholding the word of God and for the establishment in Egypt of the state of science and faith on the strongest foundations. Egypt, which has welcomed and continues to welcome the prophet's family, welcomes you and tells you and the whole world that we continue to uphold the pledge and to act for the sake of what is right, for the sake of God's word. It will not stop doing so. Rather, we will sacrifice everything that is valuable to complete the mission through which you have known Egypt, the mission of love, struggle, right and good.

FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EXPLAIN EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINT

NC2520247 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Tomorrow the Foreign Ministry will begin intensive contacts to inform the world of the latest developments related to the Middle East situation, the results of the Political Committee meetings in Jerusalem and the circumstances which led Egypt to recall its delegation from the committee meeting, and to explain Egypt's viewpoint regarding the promotion of a just and lasting settlement.

In the next 4 days Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will summon representatives of the world's states in Cairo. These contacts will begin at noon tomorrow with a meeting between Dr Butrus Ghali and the heads of the diplomatic missions of the African states.

Tomorrow evening Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will meet with the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions. The day after tomorrow Dr Butrus Ghali will meet with the representatives of Latin America. On Saturday morning he will meet with the representatives of East European states. On Saturday evening Ibrahim Kamil will meet with the representatives of Europe and Canada. The contacts will be concluded on Sunday with Dr Butrus Ghali's meeting with the heads of the Asian diplomatic missions.

Ghali Meets African Ambassadors

NC2612357 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 26 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 January--The Foreign Ministry today started intensive diplomatic contacts with the ambassadors and representatives of world states in Cairo to brief them on the latest developments in the peace talks and the obstacles which led to the breakdown of the Jerusalem negotiations.

At noon today, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali held a meeting with the ambassadors of the African states in Cairo.

The meeting was attended by 26 African ambassadors. On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman, head of the African Department Ambassador Ahmad (Lutfi), and head of Dr Butrus Ghali's office 'Ala' Khayri.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that the meeting was the beginning of Egypt's contacts with the ambassadors of world states to brief them on the latest developments in the situation following President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative for peace in the Middle East.

Ghali Briefs British Ambassador

NC261231Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT 26 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met today with British Ambassador to Egypt Willie Morris. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the situation in the light of Israel's obduracy, the freezing of the work of the joint Political and Military committees, the current contacts to maintain the momentum and bilateral relations between Egypt and Britain.

Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed to the British ambassador Egypt's stand represented in the need to have a complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

MUBARAK TO LEAVE FOR ARAB STATES, IRAN 28 JAN

NC251615Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 January--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will leave Cairo Saturday on a tour of a number of Arab states and Iran. The vice president's tour will last 5 days. He will contact the kings and presidents of these states to acquaint them with the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

MAR'I ISSUES STATEMENT ON PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS

NC251354Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 January--People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i has stated that the assembly's Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees will hold a high-level meeting Saturday to discuss the latest developments in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations and to study the speech which Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin delivered in the Knesset last Monday.

In a statement to MENA, Sayyid Mar'i said that the meeting will be attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali as well as a number of members of the Egyptian delegation to the Cairo preparatory conference for peace.

Engineer Mar'i said that Egyptian parliamentary delegations will begin extensive activity next month to contact other parliaments to clarify the Egyptian viewpoint on the Arab question and the reasons for suspending the negotiations and the withdrawal of the Egyptian delegation from the meetings of the Political Committee in Jerusalem and to emphasize Egypt's seriousness about establishing a just peace in the area.

In this connection Engineer Mar'i stressed the importance of maintaining contacts with other parliaments where it is possible to exchange views on a popular rather than governmental basis. He also noted the important role which Egyptian parliamentary delegations can play at the Arab level. He said that Egypt is prepared to take part in the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union to be held in the UAE next month.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES CAIRO FOR HOME

NC251324Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 January--YAR Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abdallah al-Asnaj left Cairo today at the end of a 2-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit he held discussions with Egyptian officials on the current situation in the Middle East. He also delivered to Prime Minister Mamduh Salim a message for President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat from Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the YAR Command Council. Al-Asnaj was seen off by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Afrah.

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE INTEGRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS END

NC252017Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The meetings of the fifth session of the Egyptian-Sudanese Higher Ministerial Committee for Economic and Political Integration were concluded today. The meetings were chaired by Egyptian Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr.

At its final meeting the committee issued decisions and resolutions on the creation of an integrated area on the joint border in the region of the High Dam and facilitation of the movement of Sudanese and Egyptian citizens between the two countries on personal and family identity cards, permitting them to transfer whatever funds they need at the exchange rate agreed upon between the central banks of the two countries.

The committee approved the formation of the Egyptian-Sudanese Investment Company Ltd, and agreed to draw up integration programs and a strategy for financing them.

On agricultural development and irrigation, the committee decided to support the Egyptian-Sudanese joint company for agricultural integration so that this company will implement the project for the production of meat and fodder. The company's capital has been increased to 6 million pounds. It has also been decided to link Egypt and Sudan by an asphalt road, strengthen telecommunications between the two countries, and establish a joint navigation line to link the ports of the two countries.

On education and scientific research the committee agreed to standardize a number of school books as a first step toward standardizing school books at all stages of education, strengthen and develop the Khartoum branch of Cairo University, and coordinate admission of Sudanese students to Egyptian universities. The committee also approved a number of decisions in the fields of industry, social and cultural affairs, information, religious affairs, legal affairs and health.

Salim, Bakr Hold Press Conference

NC252149Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Egyptian Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Sudanese Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr have held a press conference and answered reporters' questions.

Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr said that the implementation of the integration projects was proceeding in all fields according to specific schedules.

Regarding the present situation in the Middle East, Mamduh Salim said that the president's speech to the People's Assembly early this week was specific on everything related to the issue. He added that Israel tried to reach a settlement at the expense of territory and sovereignty. This is rejected, he said. Israel tried to have control over the Palestinian people through self-rule, which is also rejected.

Mamduh Salim emphasized that Israel's old way of thinking cannot possibly achieve peace. He said the talks should be based on clear and sound foundations and be held in an atmosphere that will help fulfill the basic principles announced by President as-Sadat in his speech to the Israeli Knesset for achieving a just and lasting peace which would restore stability to the Middle East.

Joint Statement Issued

NC2520052Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] A joint statement was issued this evening on the work of the fifth session of the Egyptian-Sudanese Higher Ministerial Committee headed by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Sudanese Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr. The statement says that the two sides discussed the question of peace in the Middle East and the pioneering role of Egypt and Sudan in the light of the speeches by President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Ja'far Muhammad Numayri at the joint congress of the Egyptian and Sudanese people's assemblies held in Cairo last October.

The two sides discussed the current conditions in the Arab world and the foreign influences and rhetoric to which the Arab nation is being subjected, which constitute a grave danger at a time when there is more need for Arab solidarity at this crucial stage.

The committee hailed the bold, purposeful steps and responsible peace initiative of President Anwar as-Sadat aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. It supported the As-Sadat and Numayri declarations definitely insisting that the basis of any overall agreement with Israel be complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to set up their own state.

The committee discussed means of speeding up the implementation of the Egyptian-Sudanese economic and social integration programs. It approved a number of good projects in this connection. It also discussed the recommendations of the joint parliamentary congress of the people's assemblies of the two countries.

The committee praised the efforts exerted by Presidents Numayri and as-Sadat to establish peace, security, and prosperity for mankind. It also discussed Arab-African solidarity and the problems of the African Continent. The committee expressed support for the liberation movements in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and the Horn of Africa against the forces of domination, terrorism and discrimination. The higher committee expressed the eagerness of the two countries to continue to play their natural role among the group of nonalined states and in the Islamic congress. It reaffirmed its determination to continue to work for a just peace that will restore Arab rights and dignity.

CULTURAL, COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH IRAQ CONTINUE

NC2211502 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Baghdad, 22 January--It has been learned that the Iraqi Government has approved the nomination of Counselor Ahmad Yusri Sirri to head the Egyptian mission looking after Egyptian interests in Iraq.

Shortly after Egypt severed diplomatic relations with Iraq, the two countries agreed that the members of the Egyptian and Iraqi technical, cultural and commercial offices return to work in Baghdad and Cairo. The members of the Iraqi commercial and cultural representation returned to Cairo 2 weeks ago. The members of the Egyptian commercial and cultural representation are expected to return to Baghdad in the new few days.

AS-SADAT SENDS CABLES TO LEADERS OF IRAN, ROMANIA

Message to Shah

NC2514402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 January--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following congratulatory cable to the shah of Iran, Emperor Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the popular revolution in Iran:

As you celebrate the 15th anniversary of the popular revolution in your country, it gives me pleasure to express to you the heartfelt congratulations of the people of the Arab republic of Egypt and myself. While wholeheartedly sharing in your celebrations marking this occasion, our people note with appreciation the glories of your noble family inscribed in the annals of history. Our people are also following with complete admiration the great achievements made in all domains under your wise leadership.

I am certain that the historical and cultural ties between our two peoples will grow stronger as time goes by, in their common interests and in the interests of world security and peace.

I send Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Shahbanu Farah Pahlavi my greetings and best wishes. I wish you and all members of your noble family good health and happiness and the fraternal Iranian people prosperity and glory. I reaffirm my highest respects.

Cable to Ceausescu

NC2515092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Summary] Cairo, 25 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has sent a congratulatory cable to President Ceausescu on his birthday. The text of the cable follows:

"My dear friend, it pleases me very much to take the opportunity of the celebration of your birthday to send Your Excellency most sincere heartfelt congratulations coupled with my best wishes, dear friend, for your good health and happiness.

"On this happy occasion, I must express my and the Egyptian people's special appreciation for your support for our historic march to achieve peace based on justice in the Middle East in the interest of this area and in the service of international peace and security. While sending you my most sincere greetings, I hope the friendly Romanian people will achieve their great aspirations. My highest esteem and respect.

"Vice President Husni Mubarak has also sent a similar cable to his excellency on the occasion."

OMANI INTERIOR MINISTER RECEIVED BY AL-BAKR

JN251231Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1122 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received at the presidential palace at noon today, Muhammad ibn Ahmad, Omani interior minister, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, the president received a gift from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman.

Mr ibn Ahmad conveyed to President al-Bakr the greetings of his majesty the sultan as well as the wish for further development in the relations between the two fraternal countries in the service of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of public works and housing, and the ambassadors of Iraq and Oman to the respective countries.

Received by Sadd'am Husayn

JN261105Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 January--Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman, this morning received Omani Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Anmad and the delegation accompanying him in his office at the National Council Building.

Ahmad conveyed to Saddam Husayn the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id ibn Taymur as well as the wish for further development in the relations between the two fraternal countries in the service of the Arab nation.

During the meeting Saddam Husayn received a gift from Sultan Qabus and afterwards they discussed current developments in the Arab region and relations between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and minister of public works and housing; 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the ambassadors of Iraq and Oman to the respective countries.

Meets With Housing Minister

JN251545Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--Taha Yasim Ramadan, minister of public works and housing, held a meeting here today with Omani Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Ahmad. The two ministers discussed means of developing and deepening relations between Iraq and Oman, and of defining the best course for the strengthening of fraternal bonds in the interests of the Arab people in the two countries.

The Omani interior minister arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a visit of several days to Iraq.

PDRY PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON TALKS HELD IN BAGHDAD

JN251450Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Test] Baghdad, 25 January--PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has stated that the talks he held with Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman, were positive and fruitful. In a statement to INA prior to his departure from Baghdad today,he said that the talks were in the interests of the two peoples in the two fraternal countries. They confirmed the importance of coordination and consultation among the PDRY, Iraq and the progressive forces to repulse the imperialist plots.

Nasir explained that the current circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing make it incumbent upon the progressive forces to unite and show cohesion in confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught to which the Arab nation is being subjected. He said that the talks he held in Baghdad gave him the opportunity to exchange viewpoints regarding current issues in the Arab area and the Horn of Africa. Agreement was reached to strengthen and develop fraternal relations between Iraq and the PDRY, and to continue coordination and consultation on various issues, including support for the Palestinian people's struggle, safeguarding the unity of the Arab progressive forces and bolstering relations with the socialist countries.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad has sent a cable to Saddam Husayn in which he says: On leaving the soil of fraternal Iraq, it gives me pleasure to send you fraternal greetings coupled with great appreciation and gratitude for the welcome and hospitality accorded us during our visit to fraternal Iraq. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep confidence that the fraternal relations existing between the peoples of our two fraternal countries will develop in the interests of our two peoples, strengthening their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and for the social progress and total victory of our nation.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH HAMID 'ALWAN

JN251134Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and acting foreign minister, met here today with Muhammad as-Salih Muti'i, PDRY foreign minister. During the meeting relations between Iraq and the PDRY and the means to develop them in all fields were discussed. Viewpoints on the current Arab situation were also exchanged between the Iraqi and PDRY officials.

Mr Muti' is a member of the PDRY delegation accompanying PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, which arrived here yesterday.

Received by Planning Minister

JN251144Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning, met here today with Muhammad as-Salih Muti', PDRY foreign minister.

During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations in the economic and technical fields as well as the means to strengthen these relations. The meeting was attended by the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad and the Iraqi ambassador in Aden.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER RECEIVES PDRY COUNTERPART

JN251251Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 23 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--Latif Nasif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, met here today with Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, PDRY minister of agriculture and agrarian reform. Discussions dealt with cooperation between the two friendly countries in agriculture as well as support for the joint Iraqi-Yemeni fishing company.

Latif Nasif Jasim expressed Iraq's readiness to provide the PDRY with agricultural assistance in the areas of animal husbandry, poultry breeding and orchards and to grant a number of training scholarships to Yemeni students to study at Iraqi agricultural institutes.

IRAQI-PDRY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS HOLD MEETING

JN251139Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0916 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--Sa'dun Ghaydan, RCC member and communications minister, today met with Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, PDRY communications minister.

During the meeting the two discussed bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them in the area of communications. Ghaydan expressed Iraq's readiness to expand and develop the current cooperation in the domains of aviation, ports and telecommunications.

During the meeting the two sides stressed the need to exchange expertise and visits by technicians from the two countries.

ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

JN251620Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The delegation of the Italian Communist Party headed by Comrade Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the Politburo and chief of the Foreign Relations Office, ended its official 2-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of the National Command of the Ba'th Party.

During the visit, the members of the delegation held talks with the comrades in the Ba'th Party National Command dealing with the development of mutual cooperation between the two parties and means for strengthening their relations.

A review was made of the current Arab situation and recent developments in the wake of As-Sadat's trip to the occupied land.

SUDANESE COOPERATION MINISTER CONCLUDES 2-DAY VISIT

JN261031Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 January--Dr Muhammad Hashim 'Awad, Sudanese cooperation minister and president of the Arab Economists Union, left Baghdad this morning after a 2-day visit to Iraq.

Dr 'Awad said that he held talks with Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah, secretary general of the union, and Dr Fakhri Qadduri, president of the Iraqi Economists Association, on convening the union's seventh conference in Khartoum on 3 February. He added that representatives from 10 organizations belonging to the union will attend as well as Saudi Arabia which will attend the conference as an observer.

He added that the conference will discuss the scope of Arab agricultural development, economic integration and food supplies.

BRIEFS

YOUTH MINISTERS MEETING IN SAN'A'--Baghdad, 25 January--Youth Minister Karim Mahmud Husayn left today for San'a' at the head of a delegation to participate in the meetings of the Arab Youth Ministers Council to be held there next Saturday. During the 4-day meeting the Arab ministers of youth will discuss means of stimulating the sports movement in the Arab world. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0826 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN]

HUSAYN SPONSORS GRADUATION OF ROYAL GUARD, PARATROOPERS

JN2517187 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, at noon today sponsored the graduation ceremony of the special security and protection class of the special royal guard battalion. Several officers of the fraternal Arab countries participated in the graduation ceremony. The graduates performed several exercises in which helicopters participated. They also carried out an exercise of shooting at fixed and movable targets. At the end of the graduation ceremony, his majesty distributed the certificates and awards to the graduates. The graduation ceremony was attended by the commander in chief of the armed forces, the director of public security and the high-ranking officers of the armed forces.

His majesty the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces earlier sponsored the graduation ceremony of the first class of paratroopers, those who were drafted for national military service and volunteered to serve in the special forces. They completed their scheduled training at the special forces and passed the training given to the shock troops.

His Majesty King Husayn addressed the graduates, lauding their high standard and the efforts of the trainers and those supervising the various aspects of training. His Majesty King Husayn said: Our Arab army--the army of the greater Arab revolution--enjoys the suitable and required standard in terms of training and preparedness due to awareness, good planning and psychological preparedness. We will achieve our goals, God willing. We will remain always and forever the soldiers of right.

Addressing the graduates, His Majesty King Husayn said: Together with your brothers of the armed forces, you are noble soldiers and men whom your families, homeland and nation are proud of. At the end of the ceremony, his majesty distributed the certificates and wings to the graduates.

The ceremony was attended by the commander in chief of the armed forces, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the military adviser to his majesty the king and the inspector general of the armed forces, the division commanders, the commander of the special forces and the high-ranking officers of the armed forces general command.

SENATE SPEAKER RETURNS TO AMMAN, MAKES STATEMENT

JN2109557 Amman JNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 21 January--Bahjat at-Talhuni, speaker of the Senate and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union, returned to Amman last evening after a 5-day visit to Damascus and Beirut.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Mr at-Talhuni stated that the aim of his visits to the two fraternal countries was to contact parliamentary officials on the draft agenda of the Arab Parliamentary Union council's meeting scheduled to be convened in Abu Dhabi.

He added that a draft agenda for the meeting has been prepared following consultations which took place with the speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly and the chairman of the Palestine National Council.

He further said that he had held talks with the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in light of the discussions which occurred in Damascus and the letters and proposals the union has received from Tunisia, Abu Dhabi and Egypt.

On Jordan's role in the Arab Parliamentary Union's activities, the speaker of the Senate said that this role is similar to that of the other Arab parliaments, since Jordan's role and progress are inspired by the Arab summit resolutions.

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF RETURNS FROM PAKISTAN

JN201222Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Staff Lt Gen Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, armed forces command in chief, and the military delegation accompanying him returned home this morning at the end of a 6-day official visit to Pakistan.

The commander in chief made a stopover in Dubayy airport while on his way back from Pakistan yesterday to meet with UAE Defense Minister Muhammad ar-Rashid and hold talks on strengthening cooperation the two fraternal countries in the military domain.

The commander in chief and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed back by the chief of staff, the director of public security, the assistant chief of staff for military intelligence and a number of high-ranking officers.

CABINET RATIFIES AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WITH ROK

JN261028Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 26 January--The Council of Ministers has ratified a bilateral air transport agreement between Jordan and South Korea.

The agreement aims at expanding air transport cooperation between the two countries and allowing Alia to operate flights to the Korean capital, Seoul, as part of the corporation's plan to link Jordan by direct flights with world capitals.

BUTRUS MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR PARKER

NC251318Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The Middle East situation and the latest developments were discussed today at a 45-minute meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus and U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker.

The minister of foreign affairs this morning summoned the U.S. ambassador, with whom he reviewed the current situation in the area and the latest diplomatic moves connected with the talks to reach a peaceful settlement. It was learned that Ambassador Parker conveyed to Minister Butrus some information connected with the latest developments in the crisis in the area.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' TERM EXTENDED 2 YEARS

NC251315Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies held a session today under the chairmanship of Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The session was attended by the prime minister, the ministers and 54 deputies. The session was opened by reviewing the bills on the agenda. A bill extending the term of the Chamber of Deputies for 2 years was passed.

INA: AS-SAFIR PRINTING HOUSE IN BEIRUT BOMBED

JN250905Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0824 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 January--An explosive charge was thrown at the printing house of the Beirut newspaper AS-SAFIR, causing slight damages but no physical injuries. In its issue today, the paper stated that the explosive was thrown yesterday from a car passing swiftly in front of the printing house. It is noted that the Arab deterrent forces have a fixed checkpoint 200 meters from the paper's building.

INA: NATIONAL MOVEMENT REPLIES TO RIGHTISTS

JN251123Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 January--The political council of the national and progressive parties and forces has stated that the statement of the "Lebanese front" in Zgharta reveals a plot aimed at eliminating the national components of Lebanon and its unity and Arab affiliation. The council says that this plot is also aimed at eliminating the fateful confrontation with the Zionist enemy and at the firm Lebanese national interest in organizing Lebanese-Palestinian relations and strengthening them.

Last evening, in reply to a statement issued by the rightist Lebanese front at the conclusion of 2 days of meetings, the council stated that the statement by the Lebanese front clearly shows a position of complete disavowal of Lebanon's Arabism and calls for uprooting and separating it from the Arab homeland so as to obliterate the contradiction between Lebanon and the Zionist entity which constitutes the principal source of danger to national destiny and to the people and territory.

The statement adds that the position of the front is in harmony with the unyielding U.S.-Zionist effort to remove the Palestinian people from the conflict and the region and to liquidate the Palestinian cause at its roots.

The statement points out the front's position on the question of evacuees and stresses that the national movement has always stated that it is for the return of all the evacuees to their homes and villages.

The statement further says that by its main principles the rightist Lebanese front proves again that it is clinging to its special project aimed at imposing its complete control over Lebanon, escalating the struggle and introducing further complicated factors into the Lebanese crisis so as to expose the whole situation to the most dangerous conditions.

The national movement reiterated the proposal it had submitted to settle the Lebanese crisis. This proposal is based on ending the fighting in the south, the central authorities resuming power to exercise all their responsibilities and the reconstructing of state institutions in an atmosphere enabling Lebanon to restore its political and administrative unity. The Lebanese national movement's proposal also is based on defining the commitment of Lebanon's Arabism, the requirements of its fateful contradiction with the Zionist enemy and the implementation of agreements concluded between the Lebanese authorities and the PLO.

The proposal also calls for conducting a national dialog in a democratic atmosphere so as to formulate a program for reconstructing Lebanon politically, economically and socially.

Concluding its statement, the political council stresses that the positions of the rightist Lebanese front will not dissuade the national movement from continuing with its course of action to achieve a solution which will preserve Lebanon's fundamental and national components and protect the future of its democratic progress.

INA REPORTS MORE CLASHES IN SOUTH

JN251137Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 January--Intermittent clashes continued last night between the rightist forces and the joint forces in all areas of southern Lebanon. The rightist forces failed to achieve any progress in the Marj 'Uyun-Al-Khiyam area. They had tried to break through this area by launching a series of attacks.

Sources of the joint forces in the south have stated that Balat village north of Marj 'Uyun, around which fierce battles have raged during the past 24 hours, is still in the hands of the national forces. The INA correspondent in the south reported that last night's battles were concentrated in the eastern and western sectors. Firing in the direction of Bint Jubayl in the central sector was also noted.

At dawn today Yarin township in the western sector came under artillery fire. Firing lasted 30 minutes and mechanized forces of the Zionist enemy were seen moving along the border strip in occupied Palestine. Enemy gunboats carried out reconnaissance patrols off the southern coast between Tyre and Sidon throughout the night.

TISHRIN NOTES 'GODFATHER' ROLE OF CYRUS VANCE

JN260937Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 26 January--The newspaper TISHRIN explains today that the events surrounding the Washington-sponsored "peace process," in which As-Sadat and Begin are playing the hero roles, are merely a maneuver designed to imply that there are in fact difficulties obstructing the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks and that these difficulties may wreck As-Sadat's initiative.

The emphasis on the theatrical "Egyptian hardline" stand is in fact a maneuver aimed at restoring the lost of confidence in the "prodigal son" and rehabilitating him among the Arabs, in preparation for a new step within the step-by-step policy under a new godfather, who is Vance.

The step-by-step policy, which Kissinger said was in Israel's interests, is surfacing again and is to be implemented by Vance, As-Sadat and Begin.

The newspaper calls on As-Sadat to submit his resignation, now that he has admitted that his initiative has failed, because Arab solidarity as understood by the Arab nation is that which mobilizes Arab resources and potentials in the battle of confrontation against our enemy and his allies, and not that which seeks to save a regime which has betrayed the cause of its nation, broken away from Arab ranks and turned a deaf ear to all Arab resolutions taken unanimously.

The newspaper affirms that any call for solidarity not aimed at recovering land, regaining the Palestinian people's rights and consolidating the front of steadfastness cannot be a call for real Arab solidarity.

AL-BA'TH SCORES U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST

JN251225Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 25 January--The newspaper AL-BA'TH explains today that the United States orchestrated the suspension of As-Sadat's talks with Begin and Dayan so that it may be able to prepare a more appropriate atmosphere to continue the process with the hope that Arab and international opposition will have abated by then.

The newspaper stresses that Syria and the Palestinian resistance are the most formidable obstacle which the United States wants to remove from its way because they represent two basic parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict and stand on the front line of confrontation. Their hardline stand could lead to the failure of the U.S.-Israeli plan now that most of it has been implemented by As-Sadat.

Thus in the light of these facts we expected that U.S. policy will follow three parallel tactical lines that ultimately aim to remove these obstacles standing in the way of its plan. These lines are:

A--The United States will urge As-Sadat and Israel to toughen their stands so as to show that the negotiations are about to collapse. The aim is to show that As-Sadat is adhering to Arab rights, particularly Palestinian rights.

B--The United States will use all its secret means to prevent the establishment of serious Arab solidarity that will aim at pooling Arab potentials and resources to confront the aggressive tendency of the Zionist enemy. It will work to the fuel Arab disputes and seditions in Lebanon, the Arab Maghreb and within the Palestinian resistance. It will exert a special effort to prevent the establishment of any Iraqi-Syrian cooperation through all means and by all possible pressures.

C--The United States will work to lessen the intensity of Soviet and European opposition, even at the expense of making some concessions in certain areas of the world. It will seek to give assurances to the Soviet Union with the aim of preventing it from giving aid and assistance to the Arab states, particularly Syria, now that the Soviet Union has clearly declared its support for the Arab steadfast states.

FAILURE OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS DEEMED 'THEATRICAL'

JN201205Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--A closed session of talks was held in Cairo between the head of the Egyptian regime and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance immediately after Vance's arrival in Cairo today from occupied Arab Jerusalem. The talks are expected to concentrate on the new developments following the theatrical postponement of the meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee and the summoning of the head of the Egyptian delegation to the negotiations to Cairo.

News agencies have reported that the Egyptian-Israeli military committee will resume its meetings in the next few days in Cairo despite the fact that on Wednesday As-Sadat summoned Ibrahim Kamil, head of the Egyptian regime's delegation, from Jerusalem. The Military Committee is due to meet at the level of the war and defense ministers who were entrusted with the task of drafting the details of a separate agreement between Egypt and Israel. With U.S. backing Israel is increasing its pressure on Cairo to force Egypt to give new concessions. Reports say that the Zionist defense minister is demanding in the Military Committee that the Egyptian Government make an unconditional commitment, after concluding a separate peace agreement, not to participate in any armed dispute between Israel and the other Arab states, even in the event of Israeli aggression.

Observers note in this connection that despite the fact that Cairo has verbally turned down the demands of the Israeli side which are regarded as final ultimatums, U.S. officials participating in the Jerusalem negotiations regard the summoning of Ibrahim Kamil from the Political Committee as a transient crisis aimed at achieving a spectacular effect. The observers point out that the other members of the Egyptian delegation are staying over in Jerusalem.

In Washington U.S. President Jimmy Carter has affirmed that the U.S. role in the Middle East was constructive and necessary and that it will continue. In a speech to the U.S. Congress yesterday, President Carter said that the United States is undertaking endeavors in the Middle East to maintain the momentum in the current negotiations and to keep the lines of communications open between the negotiating parties in the area.

PAPER COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT'S MOVES, U.S. EFFORTS

JN260659Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH wrote an editorial about As-Sadat's failure in his talks with Zionist enemy leaders and the U.S. efforts being exerted to prevent this failure.

Under the headline "How Long Do We Mark Time?" the paper says: As-Sadat and Begin have left the door half-closed and have handed all the cards to Washington to have it stimulate the operation and bring it out of the deadlock. Why have things stopped since Washington is trusted by both parties? The United States and all the concerned parties realize that an automatic failure of the As-Sadat operation is out of the question. The only possibility feared by the United States, Israel and As-Sadat is that the Arab world may foil this operation.

The present crisis in As-Sadat's course is just a respite to neutralize other Arab countries' reactions. We say that this crisis is artificial, if we consider its nature. While As-Sadat continues to gamble on a mirage, Begin has proved by his steps that he has a lack of confidence in As-Sadat's ability to continue until the end in defying the Arab nation. The United States, which is leading the operation as a whole, is leaving a lot of room for action by both men, within which they can demonstrate their capability to bring about what could change the course of history in the region.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes its editorial by saying that while the United States is weighing the international moral credit As-Sadat claims to possess against the asset of Israel as a ready force, it is also watching trends in the Arab area which stands against everything and which has the means of steadfastness and effective resistance.

Therefore, the most pressing national need is to mobilize the forces of steadfastness and confrontation to put an end to the conspiracy without delay, a conspiracy which will only be foiled by these forces.

BA'TH PARTY, ITALIAN CP DELEGATION CONCLUDE TALKS

JN251515Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Apparent communique issued on occasion of visit by delegation of Italian Communist Party]

[Text] Damascus, 25 January--At the invitation of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, a delegation of the Italian Communist Party visited Syria 21-23 January 1978. The delegation was headed by Comrade Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the secretariat and the party directorate, and included as member Comrade Antonio Rubi, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief in charge of international relations.

During its stay, the guest delegation was received by Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The delegation held meetings with Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Comrade George Saddiqni, member of the National Command and chairman of the office of culture, studies and party indoctrination.

The Italian Communist Party delegation held talks with a delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and chairman of the Foreign Relations Office; with Comrade Fayiz an-Nuri, reserve member of the Regional Command and chairman of the Syrian-Italian Freindship Society; Comrade Muhammad Abu Zarad, director of the Foreign Relations Office in the National Command; and Comrade Salah Ra'd, department head in the Foreign Relations Office, as members.

During the discussions, which were filled with an atmosphere of trust and friendship, the two delegations exchanged views and information regarding the situation in their respective countries and the international situation, particularly the situation in the Middle East in the wake of the recent developments resulting from As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. The two delegations expressed their conviction that the Palestinian question is the core of the current conflict in the Middle East, and that a just and lasting solution cannot be reached without the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the rights of the Palestinian people--represented by the PLO--including their right to free self-determination and establishment of their own independent state on their soil.

The Italian Communist Party delegation affirmed its solidarity with the issue of independence of the Arab nation against any foreign intervention and any danger threatening just peace. The Italian Communist Party believes that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be recognized in order to achieve just peace. This can be realized only through the contribution and agreement of all parties concerned.

The Italian Communist Party will not support any efforts leading to contradictions and divisions. It will resist unilateral solutions detrimental to the general interests and constitute a threat to peace and justice in the countries of the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin.

The Ba'th Party delegation expressed deep thanks for the firm and principled stands adopted by the Italian Communist Party in support of Arab issues in general and the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their usurped rights in particular. The two parties proclaim their support for the peoples struggling against injustice and all forms of racial discrimination, and for liberty, peace and progress.

The two parties expressed their desire to develop and deepen relations between them. They also expressed their commitment to contribute to the strengthening and deepening of freindly relations between Syria and Italy in the interests of their two peoples and countries.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE DEFENDS REVOLUTION, WARNS AGAINST AGGRESSION

LD252000 [Editorial Report LD] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 25 January carries a 59-minute recorded speech by Algerian President Houari Boumediene in Oran on 24 January on the occasion of installing the party national commissioner there. At the beginning of his speech, Boumediene points out that the new organization of the commissariat will continue to be effective until the convening of the party congress. Under this new organization the commissariat will have a national commissioner and a council. Members of the council will include, among others, the wali, the commander of the military province, representatives of mass organizations and some National Assembly deputies. Boumediene pays high tribute to the National Liberation Front, which has brought to the Algerian people historic achievements and has been the sole revolutionary and political organization leading this people on the road to victory. He asserts that the task is to protect and defend the revolution by finalizing the structure of the party.

Referring to past organizations and plans, Boumediene says that the conferences of the masses must be successful and must express the opinion of the masses. We must work to overcome our problems. "It is the ambition of the leadership to give the base of the party more responsibility on the basis of the decentralization of the system." All that we ask is for every citizen to do his job honestly and sincerely. We are proud of our achievements in the past 15 years, the president says. Our people are free and they control their affairs and destiny. "However, there has been a great deal of tendentious propaganda. Our brethren--God forgive them--on our western borders today have only one policy: to abuse Algeria. They have found a solution for their problems--unemployment, the problems of exploitation by world capitalism, the exploitation of the Moroccan people, the serious social problems, the problem of the exploitation of man by his fellow man, the problem of classes--one lives in a hovel and the other in a palace: I say they have found a solution for these problems by abusing Algeria and the Algerian revolution. In this country, thanks to Providence, there are no princes and subjects. There are free citizens who are equal in the eyes of the law [applause] and with regard to political philosophy [words indistinct]. We are building a just and true society. In this country there are no thrones which we fear will collapse. The only throne is that of the revolution."

The revolution is for the people, Boumediene continues. "We believe that the Algerian people are capable of defending their revolution." Algeria, he says, has sacrificed a lot for its independence.

"We have no external ambitions; we have no expansionist thoughts; we have no thoughts of domination. There have been accusations by some biased quarters regarding [Algeria's] policy of domination. But who is seeking and applying the policy of domination? Is it Algeria or some other party? I believe that a party other than Algeria is seeking and applying this policy. We want to live in peace, in harmony, in stability and in security. But we are not prepared to accept that (?such) a policy will be carried out in this region--the region of the Arab Maghreb. Under no circumstance are we prepared--regardless of the price--to keep quiet about the foreign interventions in this Arab Maghreb region.

"There are problems in this region. We have always wanted these problems to be contained within their local boundaries. However, we are against any policy which [word indistinct] and seeks to involve the foreigner--yesterday's colonizer--who in the past violated our sanctity--the sanctity of our daughters, our views and our mothers. We refuse to seek the assistance of yesterday's colonizer in settling (?our) problems."

Boumediene once more refers to the history of the Algerian people and says that the Algerian people will not forget their history and sacrifices.

"The conflict that exists in the region is a conflict between Morocco and Mauritania on one hand--however now the French Air Force has become a third party--and the homeless, weak and helpless Saharan people on the other. He who says that we harbor enmity against Morocco is mistaken. On the contrary. He who says that we have pursued this policy because we are against the present Moroccan regime is mistaken. We have coexisted with Morocco and the Kingdom of Morocco for 10 years in fraternity--a policy of fraternity, open borders and cooperation. On no occasion did we attempt to export our ideas or revolution, nor did we attempt to plot against the Moroccan regime."

Boumediene goes on to say that all intrigues in Morocco come from within. Algeria's attitude toward the Mauritanian people is also known.

"On no occasion did we attempt to expand the country's borders by one inch; we have fought only for the territorial integrity of our country. We respect the Moroccan people just as we do the Mauritanian people and just as we do all the peoples bordering the Algerian revolution."

He goes on to reiterate that since 1965 Algeria has never plotted against others. Algeria has not changed its political course; it is the others who have changed.

"We do not want to embark on provocation against anyone. But beware of provocation against the Algerian revolution; I say beware of provocation against the Algerian revolution. This is not a simple matter; others have tried it."

Boumediene stresses that the Algerian people can defend the revolution. "Brothers, we do not want, we do not wish nor shall we try in any way to aggravate the situation more than it is now. There is a political problem. We hope that the leaderships of the two countries, who have occupied the Sahara by force, will responsibly view the existence of the political problem which cannot be resolved by an army or a club or [words indistinct]. Only politics can resolve a political problem. Going back to what is right is a virtue. But the attempt at joint defense between this and that country--joint defense between Mauritania and Morocco; joint defense between Mauritania and France; joint defense between France and Senegal--this [words indistinct], from Paris to the heart of Africa--this policy is doomed as all past colonialist policies were. They will certainly fail because what the Africans want today are friends with whom they can cooperate--friends and not guardians." All Africans want friends and not guardians. Our number one enemy is backwardness.

Boumediene continues: "We are with all the liberation movements, with all the just movements of the peoples. This in no way means that we exercise a policy of interference in others' affairs. Sooner or later, it will be the peoples of the Arab Maghreb who will have the last word on the future of the Arab Maghreb."

"So the Arab peoples will have the last word, despite the setbacks which have been and are being inflicted on this nation time and again. Every Algerian citizen is aware of recent developments. As a leadership, we do not try to comment on matters which are obvious. One does not go around in the morning telling people that the sun is shining; the people are aware that the sun is shining. When a person goes to the enemy--this needs no comment. When one goes to the occupier-enemy--this matter needs no comment. Call it what you may: politics, political shrewdness or any other names. We believe that the Algerian citizen is politically (?mature) and knows the meaning of direct meetings with the Zionist occupier. What does this mean? We leave it to the people to judge. Recently, however, there has been some criticism of the Algerian revolution and of the leaders of the Algerian revolution. We say that the issue is much more serious than abuses and insults and is more serious that questions relating to personal relations. We would only like to remind all citizens and all our brethren in the East and West of the world that we have said, on many occasions and on behalf of every citizen--man and woman--in this homeland, that the Palestinian issue is the cement and is the explosive. It is the cement which can bind together and close the ranks of the Arabs, and it is the explosive which can blow up our relations as Arab countries. We do not mention [words indistinct].

"We believe that at this stage in particular--and after the latest political initiative--the Palestinian issue is now playing the role of the explosive which blows up relations among the Arab governments. I would only like to recall that on many occasions and in the name of the Council of the Revolution and the Government of Algeria, I have stated that we have been and will continue to be with the Palestinian people. [applause] We shall differ with any Arab Government which differs with the Palestinian people and with their (?cause). [applause] Brothers, this is what is taking place today. We sympathize, and our sympathy is great, with the people of Palestine. We have no personal differences with the Egyptian Government; we shall not have personal differences with the Egyptian Government. But today our political course is different than that being followed by this government."

Boumediene then details Algerian sacrifices made for the Mideast issue, with particular reference to 1967.

Boumediene further notes that "Algeria and the Algerian Government, however, have their say on all issues--Arab and international issues alike. The Algerian revolution has always defined its stand toward all these issues--whether internal issues, regional issues, Arab issues or issues that concern the Third World or the relations between the Third World and the industrialized world. We have always defined our stands clearly and with responsibility. When we differ with one side, we say we differ with it--we differ for political reasons and we differ for objective reasons. We wait for history to judge for us or against us. If history judges that we are wrong, then we must go back to (?rectify the matter). If history judges others to be wrong, then in that case the other side must admit it was wrong and must (?rectify the matter).

If we are to speak as Arabs, this is the language that should prevail and should dominate our relations. We do not exist just to support and say yes. No. When matters became grave, problems tremendous and the battles fierce, we paid our share. Today we have a political course. On another occasion I shall be returning in more detail and clarity to this political course so that no one gets the impression that we have a quarrel or differences with the Egyptian people--not at all. Had it been an internal affair of the Egyptian people, we would not have uttered one word. However, the issue is an Arab issue; it is the issue of the Palestinian people, brothers. We fear that in the end and at the end of the round the Palestinian issue will be the sacrificial ram. Everyone would be getting back his share and his country's territory; and Palestine would pay the price. No one has the right to get back his country and sell another's country; no one has this right. Any Arab leader who has this right or who assumes it for himself--this is a matter on which we disagree and to which we shall never agree. We are with the Palestinian revolution and we will remain with the Palestinian revolution as long as there is a Palestinian revolution--as long as there is a Palestinian people demanding their rights. The peoples' rights are not a question of 1 year or 30 years; some say 30 years is a long time. Does one measure just causes--the causes of the homelands--with the number of years?"

Boumediene goes on to discuss the rights of other people, especially those in the former Portuguese colonies in Africa. He ends his address by noting that "this is our philosophy, and under no circumstances can we change our way of thinking or our stand on this struggle."

LIBYA

AL-QADADHAFI ARRIVES HOME FROM VISIT TO NIGER

LD251630Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and the accompanying delegation at 1510 this afternoon arrived at Tripoli International Airport from Niamey, the capital of Niger.

AT-TURAYKI ON RESULTS OF AL-QADHDHAFI VISIT TO NIGER

LD252036Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, foreign secretary, has described the results of the visit of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the Republic of Niger as important. He says that it is an important historic event not only for the two countries but for the African Continent, and for the economic cooperation between the two countries. Dr at-Turayki explained that the Jamahiriyah is to reclaim agricultural land for Niger and is to give Niger loans to enable it to reclaim additional land.

Dr at-Turayki has pointed out that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held lengthy talks with Lt Col Seyni Kountche which dealt with strengthening bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and strengthening the unity and solidarity of the African peoples. He declared that the joint statement about the visit and the talks between the Arab Libyan and Niger sides are considered an important event and a turning point in international relations because they stress the unity and solidarity of the peoples of the continent and their stand in the face of foreign intervention and the restoration of their control over their natural resources. The joint statement has made it clear that if there were to be a policy of pacts it should take place among the people of the continent who have a mutual destiny and common interests.

Dr at-Turayki pointed out that the talks held by the leader of the revolution with William Eteki, general secretary of the OAU, dealt with the restoration of relations between the Jamahiriyah and Chad. (?This may produce results) since the talks between the leader of the revolution and the OAU general secretary have stressed the sense of responsibility of the two peoples of the Jamahiriyah and Chad and that the efforts exerted may result in restoring relations to normal.

At the end of his statement the foreign secretary noted the historic, geographical and spiritual relations which link the Arab Libyan and Chadian peoples. He has stated that there are efforts being made to restore relations between the two fraternal people and that it is essential that cooperation should take place between the two countries to realize the interests of the Arab Libyan and Chad peoples.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON AL-QADHDHAFI VISIT TO NIGER

LD252346Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] A joint communique was issued today in Tripoli and Niamey on the visit of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September Revolution, to the Republic of the Niger. Here is the text:

Within the framework of fraternal periodical meetings between the two sister countries and at the invitation of his friend Lt Col Seyni Kountche, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president of the Supreme Military Council, head of state, secretary general of the General People's Congress and leader of the great 1 September Revolution, paid an official visit to the Republic of Niger from 25 to 25 January 1978. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was given a warm official and popular welcome expressing the feeling of brotherhood and friendship between the two peoples and countries.

During the visit the two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and the Arab, African and international situation during their meetings. Official talks took place between the two sides and were attended by, for Libya; Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress; Muhammad Ali Tabu, secretary for agriculture; Taha Sharif ibn Amir, liaison secretary; Jaddalah Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary for industry; Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary; Muhammad al-Bukhari Hammudah, Jamahiriyah ambassador to Niger; and a number of senior officials. On the Niger side were: Maj Moumouni Adamou Djermakoye, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Maj Manga Boulama, minister of rural development; Annou Mahaman, planning minister; Brahim Mamane, state secretary for rural development; Abu Bakr Bello, ambassador of Niger to the Jamahiriyah and a number of senior officials.

In an armosphere of friendship and brotherhood the two sides reviewed questions of interest to them. Viewpoints were identical in all fields. Concerning bilateral relations, the two leaders paid tribute to the firm relations between the Libyan Arab and Niger peoples characterized by friendship and good neighborliness. The two leaders expressed full satisfaction with the development of relations, solidarity and cooperation which have been reflected in extensive economic and cultural sectors. They committed themselves to do all they can to make this cooperation a true model for emulation by the African states, a matter which requires continued strengthening of this existing cooperation which has been the direct result of the success of the two countries in attaining liberation from all forms of foreign domination.

On Africa, the two sides stress their full adherence to the principle of self-determination by the Saharan people. The two sides hope the OAU emergency summit will succeed in reaching a peaceful, just and final solution. They declare their full support for the struggle of the African liberation movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe and the southern part of the continent, affirming their intention to continue their help and support for all the African peoples struggling for liberation from all forms of colonialism and racism. In this connection the two sides expressed their full support for the conference of the African liberation committee of coordination due to be held in the capital of the Jamahiriyah during Feburary. The two sides condemn the attempts by imperialism to create alliances and blocs in Africa to serve its interests, something which threatens the security, safety and unity of the African Continent. Africa should have only such alliances which serve its own interests and between neighbors in accordance with the principles of nonalinement.

While strongly condemning imperialist foreign interference in the affairs of Africa which aims at internationalizing African problems and taking the continent back to the era of colonialism and domination, the two sides stress the ability of the African peoples and the OAU to find proper solutions to these problems.

In the Arab field, the two sides call for Afro-Arab cohesion and unity and stress the importance of the common role which can be played by the African-Arab group in achieving cultural and economic progress and defeating colonialism. The cooperation between these two groups is to the benefit of the peoples of the Third World generally. By virtue of their historical and geographical relations, the Arab and African groups will be able to play an effective role on the international level and in various fields. Therefore the two sides stress their commitment to strengthen this cooperation in all sectors.

In considering the Palestinian issue which has resulted from the arrogance and intransigence of the racist Zionists, the two sides affirmed their determination to back and help the Palestinian people in their efforts to regain their land and all their usurped rights. In this connection the two sides denounce any initiative aimed at excluding the Palestinian peoples from the solution of their problem.

In the international field, the two sides stressed their commitment to the charter and principles of the United Nations and their belief in the need to amend the UN Charter in such a way as to achieve justice and equality between states, big and small, and to call for the abrogation of the right of veto. They also called for creating a new international economic order recognizing the right of the Third World countries to participate in it on basis of justice and equality.

During these talks Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi explained the principles of the great September Revolution and the democratic achievements, represented in the delegation, of power to the people. He also spoke about the victories achieved by the Libyan people against monopolies and imperialism and stressed the continued call by the Jamahiriyah people for the unity of the Arab homeland, the peoples of Africa and of the Third World.

Seyni Kountche expressed confidence that the Jamahiriyah enjoyed the appreciation and respect of all the peoples and states of the world due to its revolutionary sincerity and practical ability to challange all attempts against the right of peoples to struggle for progress. He acquainted his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with the great changes which have been achieved in the Republic of Niger since the events of April 1974 and explained to him the gigantic efforts made by Niger to insure prosperity, social justice and control over the national resources. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed admiration at the progress realized in the economic, social and cultural fields in the interest of the well-being of the Niger people.

In concluding his visit, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expresses his deep gratitude to Lt Col Seyni Kountche, the Niger Government and people for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi addressed an official invitation to Lt Col Seyni Kountche to visit the Jamahiriyah. The invitation was gratefully accepted and its date will be fixed later.

LIBYA NOT TO DISTRIBUTE MEMORANDA ON CHAD

LD2611138Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1025 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--JANA has learned that the Foreign Secretariat has responded to the call of the OAU secretary general not to distribute two memoranda which last month were prepared by the Foreign Secretariat about the measures and behavior of the Government of Chad.

MAURITANIA

OULD DADDAH STRESSES GUERRILLA WAR, ECONOMY AT PPM CONGRESS

PA2511725Y Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, Jan 25 (AFP)--President Moktar Ould Daddah today reaffirmed his determination to fight Algerian aggression against Mauritania and announced a series of reforms to reorganize the economy, the government and the ruling Mauritanian People's Party (PPM). He was opening a PPM special congress which opened here today with 600 delegates attending.

President Ould Daddah paid tribute to Morocco and France for their military aid to help his country cope with the intensification of Algerian raids.

Mauritania has borne the brunt of the guerrilla war waged by the Algerian-backed Saharan POLISARIO nationalist group seeking independence of the former Spanish Sahara, which Nouakchott and Rabat have partitioned. The president reiterated his appeal to Algeria for an end to the war, but expressed skepticism about a positive response from Algiers.

On the domestic front, he announced that the membership of the PPM national Politburo would be upped from 8 to 16 to involve fully senior officials of the party national movements in decision-making. Women, the young and artisans would now be represented in the national Politburo, which will meet once a month in ordinary session, he added.

On the economic front, he called for more rigor in the management of our resources and a more open attitude and said that he would halt the uncontrolled proliferation of state firms, which failed to meet their targets. He said that a higher priority would now be given to profitability in the creation of state industrial or trading firms and of public companies partly owned by private interests.

He added that the cabinet would be streamlined with a reduction in the number of portfolios and attempts to make the administration more efficient. The new cabinet was expected to be named within the next 48 hours.

The PPM congress was scheduled to close tomorrow with the selection of a new national Politburo by the National Council, the party's second highest body.

Meanwhile, the World Bank, the European Investments Bank (BEI), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFECD) and several others--mostly Arab--aid-giving bodies were due to meet in Paris tomorrow to discuss the amount of funds they are to allocate to the planned mining of new iron ore deposits around Zouirat, northern Mauritania. An expected first outlay of 500 million dollars should gradually bring new mines into production as of 1981.

TUNISIA

AS-SAYYAH SPEAKS ON PROSPECT OF GENERAL STRIKE

LD252102Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] A meeting this morning was held at the party coordinating committee headquarters in Tunis which included all party branch chiefs of Tunis Province. The meeting was held to look into the situation resulting from the call by the Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT] for a general strike. Muhammad as-Sayyah, party director and minister-delegate attached to the prime minister, later joined the meeting and delivered a speech.

At the beginning, he noted that this is a national problem and the Destourians should mobilize the country against the dangers which may befall it in such circumstances. He went on to say: The only way to do this is to get in touch with citizens and talk to them with common sense and address their conscience. In this connection Muhammad as-Sayyah mentioned that the party's call was and will forever remain a call for affection, fraternity and harmony stemming from the thoughts of the founder of this party and throughout his life worked at directing the Tunisian toward working for good and keeping away from the advocates of conflict and quarrels. Muhammad as-Sayyah pointed out that the party regrets seeing a group of trade unionists deviating our workers' organization from the principles on which it was founded and through which it contributed to the glory and the rebirth of Tunisia; today they became advocates of conflict in the service of undeclared purposes, completely removed from the workers' welfare and the interest of the homeland.

He then spoke of what the Destourians should do in this situation to protect the country against the dangers that would befall it from the secretly planned scheme. Muhammad as-Sayyah explained that the only action that the Destourians should take is to contact all citizens, especially the workers, to make them understand that this party is their party and that the state is their state and only the ignorant could forget that the existing regime in the country is the one which enabled the Tunisians to obtain their rights and has worked relentlessly and with sincerity to improve their conditions and especially to improve the conditions of the poor among them.

DEMONSTRATORS CLASH WITH POLICE IN TUNIS

TA261103Y Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 26 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Tunis, Jan. 26 (AFP)--Violence flared in Tunis today as demonstrators clashed with police during a one-day general strike.

Shots were fired, teargas hung over the capital, helicopters patrolled the skies and the army took up positions on the edge of the old city where the toughest clashes appeared to have occurred.

Groups of youths tore up traffic signs and began erecting barricades. They were dispersed by helmeted police using teargas.

Demonstrators and police had been clashing for two days. Last night bank and shop-fronts were smashed by stone-throwing demonstrators.

The government has denounced the general strike as "political" while the unions say it is in protest at attacks on union offices by groups close to the government "Destourian" Party.

Early reports indicated that banks, shops, cafes and public transport were among sectors affected by the strike.

The news agency TUNIS-AFRIQUE-PRESSE said demonstrators today set fire to a bank and burned several buses. They overturned several cars and smashed the windows of others. A train was reported damaged.

According to the agency, foreign-made teargas "bombs" were thrown at the police outside the headquarters of the Tunisian General Workers Union (UGTT). It also said that some 4,000 people obtained iron bars and other weapons from the union headquarters yesterday.

Police gave heavy protection to ministries and the headquarters of large companies. Outside factories, trade unionists mounted strike pickets: their leaders said the union was not responsible for the violence which was occasioned by "uncontrolled elements."

HA'AREZ INTERVIEWS BEGIN ON SINAI ISSUES

TA260704Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 26 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[Interview with Prime Minister Menahem Begin by political correspondent 'Uzzi Benziman on 25 January]

[Text] The issue of demilitarization in Sinai will be the central issue in the deliberations of the Military Committee, which will probably be renewed at the beginning of next week. Israel will insist that President as-Sadat honor his promise to the prime minister to agree to the demilitarization of most of the Sinai Peninsula. This was stated yesterday by Prime Minister Menahem Begin in answer to a question from this HA'AREZ correspondent.

The prime minister stressed that the Israeli delegation, which will probably depart for the continuation of the deliberations of the Military Committee, will demand that President as-Sadat honor his promise that Egyptian military forces would not cross the line of the [Mitla and Jiddi] passes. This was promised to Mr Begin during a tete-a-tete between the two during As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. At first As-Sadat spoke about the deployment of the Egyptian Army 15 km from the Israeli border, but after an explanation from the prime minister on the security dangers involved in such a deployment of forces, President as-Sadat stated that the Egyptian Army would not cross the line of the passes, which is about 180 km from the border. The territory between that line and the border would be demilitarized.

However, Egypt recently submitted a proposal for a Sinai settlement based on the deployment of Egyptian forces only 40 km from the border with Israel. Egypt claims that President as-Sadat's promise to the prime minister referred to the "main body" of the Egyptian Army but not to all of it. Egypt claims that it has the right to deploy a certain number of its forces near the international border.

Yesterday the prime minister told this HA'AREZ correspondent that Israel would insist on demanding that most of the Sinai Peninsula be demilitarized. Israel would not agree to the Egyptian demand that part of its forces be deployed near the international border. Israel will claim on the basis of international precedents that allowing a certain number of military units to be deployed near the border would enable Egypt to build an infrastructure in the whole of the Sinai Peninsula to absorb the whole of the Egyptian Army.

In answer to another question, the prime minister said that Israel would insist on the principle of the mutual working of the Military and Political committees. If the activities of the Political Committee are to be renewed, Israel will demand that it convene in Jerusalem.

The HA'AREZ correspondent points out that in a U.S. television interview yesterday the prime minister said that in his assessment Egypt's refusal to conduct continued deliberations in Jerusalem was the reason for As-Sadat's decision to instruct his delegation to return to Cairo.

It transpires from the prime minister's remarks yesterday that either another framework be found for the Political Committee deliberations or Israel will insist that it convene in Jerusalem.

The prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers will meet today with the U.S. assistant secretary of state and the U.S. ambassador in Israel to discuss the status of the contacts between Israel and Egypt.

At the meeting, it is expected that Messrs Atherton and Lewis will report on Cairo's reaction to the Israeli proposal on the Palestinian clause in the declaration of principles. This clause was reformulated the day before yesterday, and it shows additional Israeli flexibility compared with the draft discussed between the Israeli and Egyptian representatives to the Political Committee in the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem.

At the same time, the entire issue of the negotiations and the chances for progress will also be discussed.

The HA'AREZ correspondent points out that the Egyptian delegates who conducted contacts on legal formulations during the Political Committee deliberations are no longer in Cairo but have departed on a mission abroad, and it is not clear who in the Egyptian arena reviewed the latest formula that was submitted to As-Sadat the day before yesterday. The absence of Messrs al-Majid, Ghali and Kamil from the Egyptian captial might point to the fact that the information Messrs Atherton and Lewis will submit will deal mainly with As-Sadat's position in principle with respect to the continuation of the negotiations.

BEGIN: ISRAEL MAY REACT TO EGYPTIAN ARMS REQUEST

TA251931Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin said today that Israel is considering acting in reaction to Egypt's request for the supply of U.S. offensive weaponry. Mr Begin said this to our correspondent Elimelekh Ram. Among the items of weaponry requested by Egypt is the F-5E fighter plane. As may be recalled, President as-Sadat, in the speech he gave before the Egyptian parliament on Saturday, announced that Egypt had officially asked the United States to supply it with all the types of arms the United States has supplied to Israel.

BEGIN REJECTS SHELLI MEMBER'S CHARGE ON SETTLERS

TA251533Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin rejected the claim of a Shelli executive member, Uri Avneri, that a new war between Israel and the Arab countries may break out because of a handful of settlers. In his reply to Avneri, Mr Begin writes that such a presentation of things has no connection with political realities. As for Avneri's call to renew the deliberations of the Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee in order to prevent the door to peace from being locked, the prime minister emphasizes that the Knesset, which speaks for the nation in addition to its own decisions, will be the factor guiding him in forming the correct and right peace policy in accord with his conscience.

MILITARY COMMITTEE MAY RESUME SESSIONS NEXT WEEK

TA251938Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The deliberations of the Military Committee in Cairo are apparently to be resumed in the middle of next week. The cabinet is supposed to decide about this at its weekly session on Sunday. This is reported by our correspondent Elimelekh Ram.

Defense Minister Weizman will head the Israeli delegation to the talks. Our correspondent says that Minister Weizman will leave for an official mission to the United States at the beginning of February. Our correspondent has learned from a U.S. source that at this stage a trip of the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Alfred Atherton, to Cairo is not planned. Mr Atherton is waiting for a green light from the Egyptian Government to go there for the conclusion of the formulation of the joint Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles. Tomorrow morning Mr Atherton will meet with Prime Minister Begin.

DEPUTY PREMIER INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL ISSUES

TA252105Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1936 GMT 25 Jan 78 TA

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin on the television weekly program "Moqed," by Dan Raviv, Nissim Mish'al and Shim'on Tesler--recorded]

[Text] [Tesler] This evening, Professor Yadin, a discussion is being held in the council of the Democratic Movement for Change [DMC] about the situation in the movement. This is a euphemism to describe the discussion about the conclusions reached yesterday to prevent the split in your movement. This is, however, the second issue with which we will deal. We will begin with the political issue preoccupying the government and also you, of course, as the deputy prime minister. When, according to your assessment, will the talks with the Egyptians be resumed?

[Yadin] Let us draw a distinction first. We are talking at the moment about the Military Committee talks. I think, as was announced at the end of the Knesset debate by the prime minister, if no new developments arise, it is to be assumed that the negotiations will begin anew at the beginning of next week. This is in the military field. As for the political sphere, as we all know, Atherton is now trying to do those things which we had to do in the Political Committee when it was interrupted, namely, to reach a better agreement on the document of the declaration of intent. If this progresses and the military negotiations begin, I hope--how should we put this?--that the momentum [last two words in English] of the negotiations will be resumed.

[Raviv] When Atherton is trying to do what he is trying to do with a recognition of the gaps between the Israeli and Egyptian positions, when is this going to happen? In other words, do you have an assessment of time ranges?

[Yadin] I will tell you, it may be that the fact that the talks were stopped--and I am not at the moment going into the analysis of why they stopped, we may talk of this later on--was beneficial in a way. The negotiations began with such drama and expectations of the Messiah on the part of everybody so that everyone believed that in a day, 2 days, a week, 2 weeks, it would be possible to solve such a complicated problem. Now people may be starting to make the right assessment. After all, we are dealing here with a conflict that is very difficult to solve, with positions so far apart that it hard to assume that things can be solved quickly. I believe...

[Tesler, interrupting] Preliminary [word in English] speaking, I would indeed like to ask whether we do not condition the military talks on the political talks, namely, with both opening?

[Yadin] Look, that was the agreement proposed in Ismailia between the prime minister and President as-Sadat. This was a special arrangement, which is also logical.

Now that the political talks have been halted, the military talks will begin and the political issue will be discussed in a different manner. I have no doubt that one way or another, both issues will continue to be discussed. This ping-pong between one committee and the other will overlap from time to time since, after all, the problems are intertwined. It is important to remember though that, ultimately, this division into two committees is not just a formality. The division into committees can be defined otherwise: one committee dealing especially with bilateral problems, the problems between Egypt and Israel, which are a very serious subject, and the other committee dealing more with the Palestinian question, for example. As-Sadat as an Arab leader naturally feels himself committed to achieve this or that settlement on this issue. So if the division is into two committees or not, this does not change the problems existing between Egypt and us and between us and the Arab world, which is represented by Egypt at this stage.

[Mish'al] The prime minister declared that he conditions the resumption of the talks on the cessation of the attacks directed at him and the government by the Egyptian press....

[Yadin, interrupting] This is imprecise. He conditioned it on the cessation of blows dealt the Jewish people.

[Mish'al] This morning it was leanred that these attacks have stopped. Does this mean that the Israeli Government will now announce the resumption of the talks?

[Yadin] The situation is as follows: This coming Sunday a cabinet meeting will be held, and, as has already been reported, the cabinet will discuss the renewal of the negotiations on the military level. As mentioned beofre, if the insults in the press stop and the atmosphere in general changes and nothing happens--as was clearly stated by the prime minister in concluding the Knesset debate--there are all the chances that the discussions will begin next week.

[Tesler] In light of the truly arbitrary cessation of the talks on the part of the Egyptians, will the Israeli Government not propose some new framework for these negotiations?

[Yadin] Are you referring to the form or to the content?

[Tesler] I have no idea, the question is entirely open. I would like to hear from you about some framework that will make arbitrary cessation difficult.

[Yadin] I believe that one of the things that will inevitably change is that the negotiations will now be less exposed to the lights of the television and to journalists. This made things difficult--at least for the Egyptian side, I feel. Generally, this publicity is good for the beginning, but real negotiations are better conducted in more privacy. I think that the format may change either following an Egyptian proposal or our proposal or by mutual agreement. As for the form itself, it is difficult for me to say. At this moment we have the Cairo conference with two subcommittees. It is possible that things may change, that one will be in Cairo and the other in Jerusalem. I think that ultimately, if there is an agreement again to continue the negotiations, these problems will be of second-rate importance.

The basic problem comes first. The basic gap is still wide apparently, although, in my opinion, the gap is narrower than it seems, at least on the issues between us and Egypt. I also think that concerning the Palestinian issue there has been progress.

In fact, on that very day when the talks were suddenly interrupted--this came as a total surprise to the Egyptians who were here as well--there had been progress on the formulation of declarations that was sort of a starting point for the continuation of the deliberations.

In conclusion I would say that the problems are already more in focus, there is some progress in formulations and now, I believe, the discussion will touch more on the problems themselves, both in the Military Committee and in the Political Committee. It is mistakenly thought perhaps that the Military Committee deliberations solved the problems, as it were. This is imprecise. In fact, the agreement of the Israeli Government after the As-Sadat visit--and I think it was the right step to make at the beginning--to announce in advance that we recognize Egypt's sovereignty over the Sinai was conditional. It was conditioned on the understanding the prime minister had with As-Sadat that the question of demilitarizing the Sinai Peninsula is practically agreed on. As-Sadat in fact said this, that he understands that from the Mitla and Jiddi passes Sinai will be demilitarized. This is a defense problem. It is neither an ideological problem nor any other problem. In this sphere, there are still rather wide gaps but I believe that it is possible to overcome them if an agreement is desired.

[Raviv] Professor Yadin, you joined the government on the grounds that an hour of national energency existed and, among other things, that it was necessary to make the prime minister's and his coalition's positions more moderate and flexible. Can you note at this stage which government positions you have succeeded in making more flexible?

[Yadin] First, I will refer to the first part of your question, that about 3 months ago we had to join the government because of the hour of emergency. I heard rumors to the effect that I had known that As-Sadat would come. I was not given the power of prophecy but it was clear that whatever happened we would face decisions on basic problems in the coming months. I think that we indeed find ourselves in this situation.

[Raviv] What have you succeeded in making flexible, Professor Yadin?

[Yadin] You said this. I did not say that we had to enter the government in order to make its positions more flexible. We had to enter the government in order to share the general responsibility. We have our own views, of course. I cannot now go into details about what we have influenced and what we did not. This is utterly impossible for me. The discussions are secret, after all. I would say the following, though: When there have been problems in the course of the government's discussions of more extreme and less extreme positions--and the less extreme position is not necessarily ours--I think that the position of the DMC ministers, which usually tended more to the less extreme side, has influenced many decisions. This pertains both to matters of principle and to matters which are apparently not ones of principle but still influence the course of negotiations, such as formulations, determination of positions and so on.

[Raviv] Perhaps I should ask you a concrete question. Is there, in your opinion, room for further flexibility, further moderation on the issue of fleshing out the Rafah approaches settlements?

[Yadin] The problem of the Rafah approaches settlements is basically a different question. Does Israel, in other words, think that, even in conditions of peace, it is able to cancel and remove the Rafah approaches settlements? On this matter I think that there is a united position.

We may have occasionally made a mistake in explaining the matter, that we made it appear as though the problem here was only that of settlements and families who went there. The problem of the Rafah approaches is a problem of a basic defense concept of even two governments previous to the present one. The problem is simple. If, on the one hand, As-Sadat says: Wait a minute, there is peace, why should you then be worried about this defense problem connected with the Rafah approaches? We then ask the question: If there is peace, why do you insist on the Egyptian Army's being up to this line, and so on and so forth. Here lies the basic problem. The fleshing out is very simple. If the government decides that these settlements should remain in accordance with the daring proposal--and not very pleasant to the settlers I should say--that we recognize Egyptian sovereignty, that we agree to some kind of UN rule with some local force, the settlers there should know whether this means that we remove these settlements or leave them where they are. This fleshing out--the beginning of factories and so on and so forth--serves to tell the settlers themselves that the government's decision on this matter is a decisive one.

[Mish'al] Was this decision to flesh out the lines and to bring tractors into the Rafah approaches according to minister Sharon's instruction, was this not the central cause or one of the elements causing the torpedoing of the talks?

[Yadin] Let us say the following first. Everything that was done was done on the government's decision. I cannot tell you now whether the decision was taken unanimously or not. This makes no difference now. Concerning the issue of settlements in general--this is no secret--I, we, opposed it. In fact, according to the coalition agreement, I demanded that the settlement issue be transferred to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. I think that the true reason for the cessation of talks cannot be this subject. Why? Since all this problem of fleshing out and so on already existed a few days before this delegation departed. The delegation came here; progress was already being made. We must subtract some peripheral reasons perhaps and ask ourselves what really caused this since all this had already happened before the departure of the delegation.

[Mish'al] Does President as-Sadat mention this as a central reason for the cessation of the talks?

[Yadin] I read As-Sadat's speech. I also read the Egyptian statement issued the moment the talks were halted. This subject is not mentioned the way you put it. On the contrary. What surprised us was that at this stage President as-Sadat again said that the talks were halted apparently because we did not agree in advance to accept the basic conditions that they had presented. President as-Sadat presented this as a central issue.

[Mish'al] I want to ask you: Are you in favor of removing settlements from the Rafah approaches?

[Yadin] I am opposed to removing settlements from the Rafah approaches. I explained this. I think that the settlements in the Rafah approaches are part of the Israeli defense concept. Why should I be in favor of removing settlements?

[Mish'al] Not even in return for a peace agreement?

[Yadin] This is exactly what I explained. If, for example--and here I am expressing my own opinion--if the Egyptian proposal had stated that the issue in question is the millenial peace, that there will be no Egyptian Army at all in the entire Sinai, Sinai will be totally demilitarized, then I should say they could have claimed that Israel should have considered why it also needed security arrangements. There is no such proposal, however. This proposal says, however, that despite the peace, each party will adopt certain security arrangements. Actually, the entire argument between us and the Egyptians revolves around such questions as up to where will the Egyptian Army be, where will the limited forces zone be, where will early warning stations be and so on. In other words, peace, but still each party should take care of security arrangements.

[Tesler] Under the circumstances, do you see as a possible solution an exchange of territory in the Negev in return for areas in Sinai?

[Yadin] I am giving you my own opinion. For instance, if the Egyptians had come and told us that this arrangement of Egyptian sovereignty with Israeli settlements with defense forces and under UN protection is not a healthy situation and that they wanted sovereignty and only sovereignty without any additions, if they had in addition said let us consider the possibility of exchanging territories--if they had come up with such a proposal, I personally would certainly have been in favor of it.

[Tesler] Why should we not come up with such a proposal?

[Yadin] Look, I think that it has already been reported and said that such proposals were transmitted to the Egyptians through various elements. Feelers were made about this, not necessarily formally. To date, at least, their answer has been decisive, although I once heard Foreign Minister Kamil say, before he arrived here, that this subject might deserve consideration. If this had come up and whether it had been suggested on our part or on their part or by a third element and if there had been agreement to it, I, at least, would have supported such a possibility.

[Raviv] What part of the Negev, Professor Yadin, are you ready to hand over in return for exchanged territories?

[Yadin] Look, this problem of territorial exchange is here a symbolic problem--in other words, that a situation will not be created in which an Israeli settlement falls into an area over which the other party has sovereignty. The entire Rafah approaches in fact is .5 percent, I think, of the Egyptian area and about 1.5 percent of Sinai. Let us assume that somebody made a calculation: The Rafah approaches is so and so many kilometers, so I do not tell you what part of the Negev; this is already a geometric matter. You can, for example, take a single kilometer parallel to the international border from north to south and it may be that the total of kilometers would be equal. The problem here is in fact an essential problem: not to leave in the territory of one forces of the other. As mentioned before, had this proposal been made, I personally would have supported it.

[Mish'al] Could it have gained the support of the government?

[Yadin] I cannot now speak in the name of the government. The government is not a uniform body. There are ministers; there are people there with all kinds of views. But at this stage this is only a hypothetical question. When this question arises the government will discuss it and I, at the moment, cannot predict. I personally will support it.

[Mish'al] I would like to go over to the other side of the front. Does it still seem possible to you to succeed in the negotiations without Jordan?

[Yadin] Well, this is indeed a good question. On several occasions I have said that the government's plan, which is mainly Mr Begin's plan, the plan that was endorsed by the government regarding autonomy, is not a plan which, let us say, is identical with the DMC principles, namely, the platform that the DMC would have wanted to solve the problems. However, I said, no other plan, be it a DMC plan or an Alinement plan, maybe exluding Shelli, is acceptable to the Arabs. We asked whether the plan could serve as a basis. The most important thing that should be emphasized is that this government, and particularly the government headed by Mr Begin, says to the Arabs that we will leave the question of sovereignty open, since if every party gets what it wants it is impossible to reach an agreement. If one party gets what it wants, again, it is impossible to reach an agreement. However, in reply to your question--I have also drawn the attention of all kinds of foreign critics who have asked this question--not enough attention--and I am not referring to Husayn or maybe also to As-Sadat here--has been paid to the fact that among the 26 clauses of autonomy, the autonomy which is proposed by the Israeli Government to the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el in the general framework of the State of Israel, 5 clauses mention Jordan. In addition to the fact that the plan says, for example, that the citizens can be either Israeli citizens or Jordanian citizens and can vote for the parliament, there is a very important clause there stating that the problems stemming from this situation are a subject for negotiations between Jordan and Israel....

[Tesler, interrupting] Yes, but Jordan is not satisfied with this.

[Yadin] Wait. Surely if negotiations with Jordan mean that we say that we accept their conditions, there are no negotiations at all. They should come for negotiations.

[Mish'al] Yes, but it is impossible to try to bring Husayn to the negotiating table through a return to your original ideal of territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria?

[Yadin] Impossible. I would repeat what was once said by the foreign minister at the beginning of the discussions, even before As-Sadat's arrival. He said that if any Arab country had come and said that it was ready to talk about some sort of a solution of division, we would talk. But there is no such thing. We must not delude ourselves. If As-Sadat says that he is not ready for an inch [word in English] of Sinai to be under Israeli sovereignty, it is all the more clear that the Arabs are not at all prepared at this moment to talk about any solution other than a no-inch one since, even according to the DMC concept, the entire Jordan Valley and so on and so forth should be defended by settlements. This is, therefore, the importance [of the government's readiness to grant autonomy]. Now, how do we bring in Husayn? He made the mistake of a lifetime in 1967, in my opinion, when he listened to the Egyptian proposal and attacked. I think that now he will make another mistake if he does not listen to the Egyptian proposal and does enter the negotiations. [as heard]

[Tesler] I would like to go over to the other issue now, the first that we mentioned, namely, the issue of your party. I understand that the danger of a split has now passed. However, has it indeed passed, will it not crop up in the future again?

[Yadin] I am very happy that we can talk today and answer your question as it is asked now and not as it could have been asked when we wanted to appear on "Moqed" a week ago. I think that it is not only that the danger of a withdrawal of members has passed but that we are on the proper road toward really consolidating the movement. If you ask me, I did not see at the time, nor do I see now, any justification for this step some members wanted to take. After all, if I leave out some marginal members who may have extreme or mild positions, there are no ideological differences of opinion among most of the members, and surely not between Amnon Rubinstein and myself or between Me'ir 'Amit and Shemu'el Tamir. There are no differences of opinion on this subject. Now, regarding the rest of the problems, there are no differences of opinion either. We agree on our whole platform. There were problems here, personal ones and others, problems that arose as remnants from the sharp argument within the DMC 3 months ago about whether or not to enter the government. When the decision was made, certain situations developed. I believe that some of traces of these situations were revealed by these steps taken by these members. At present, I believe that everything was put right. This is conditional, of course, on whether we succeed in finding the way for better talk and contacts among all the parts of the movement in the near future.

[Raviv] When you speak here of better talk and contacts, you are referring, among other things, to new elections for certain movement institutions. Does this not constitute achieving internal peace in the movement at the cost of chopping off heads?

[Yadin] Excuse me. First, there is no conclusion about new elections to the movement's institutions.

[Mish'al] What about the Knesset faction?

[Yadin] Yes, this is one institution. So let's be accurate. In a few months time there will be elections to the council and it is natural--automatically--irrespective of whether there were a crisis or not, the council would elect the chairman of the secretariat, the secretariat and all the other institutions. The other problem is that of the Knesset faction. We had problems in the Knesset faction. This is a new faction and it was very difficult to get into step, and we had an especially difficult time in the transition from the short period during which we sat in the opposition to the period when we entered the coalition, and this is not simple. As soon as we entered the government I proposed to Amnon Rubinstein that he be chairman of the faction and that together we would try to form--because the problem is not only the structure of the faction executive, it is also concerned with representation in committees, everything is tied together--but then he had reasons for not accepting this. [sentence as heard] Now I hope that we will find a way--either by personal elections -and this would be the best thing--or by some sort of agreement--I have grounds to believe that such an agreement exists--to reorganize the faction executive, to have new members in the committees, and in this field I think that this would be part of the agreement now.

[Raviv] Among other things, it was said that Amnon Rubinstein would be chairman of the faction. Can one understand from this that, in your opinion, the problems in your movement evolved from the fact that Binyamin Halevi was your faction's leader?

[Yadin] It is good that you asked me this question. I, personally--and I think that a large part of the faction--believe that Binyamin Halevi conducted the faction as best he could.

[Raviv] Then why is he being replaced?

[Yadin] Just a minute. He is not being replaced.

[Raviv] Is not Amnon Rubinstein to be chairman of the faction?

[Yadin] Wait a minute. You have asked me a question, and I will answer. Once I was chairman of the faction for a short while. Let me tell you that this is a very difficult problem. The problem is difficult. There are many problems, and I think that he fulfilled his function to the best of his ability and with loyalty. However, it is a fact that there was dissatisfaction among certain members--not necessarily with Binyamin Halevi. Don't forget that the faction's executive included another three people and most of the decisions made in the faction's executive on who would speak, how long he would speak, what the decisions would be, these were mainly decision of the faction executive. As soon as there is dissatisfaction from this point of view, then, in my opinion, there is not reason not to hold elections again. Now, if, for example, Amnon Rubinstein is elected--in fact, this was my idea from the outset; you have to remember that Amnon Rubeinstein was number two in the elections list, and this applies to the parliamentary problem because these elections of number one and number two and so forth referred to the Knesset elections--it is natural that he should be faction chairman, and I hope that he together with the faction executive that is presently to be elected will succeed in overcoming the problems. However, the problems exist objectively.

[Mish'al] There is something that I would like to understand. Earlier, you said that the dispute was not ideological, that it was personal.

[Yadin] I did not say personal, I said that, in my opinion, it was...

[Mish'al, interrupting] On a personal background.

[Yadin] Against a background of human problems. Let's call it that.

[Mish'al] So should one understand that the leaders of the group that wanted to split away is demanding positions for itself?

[Yadin] No. That is to say that with respect to what they have demanded in this sphere, I cannot say that they have demanded it in this way. However, let's put it this way--if I understood correctly--this is a group that feels that it is in a minority and there is a problem here. Normally, in a democracy, it is clear that a minority should follow the majority. However, there are other situations. If you take a coalition, then there also you have minority factions which get something. They would like to have greater influence despite the fact that they are in a minority in the movement's institutions. Apart from the agreement arrived at in the movement that elections would be held, the results of the elections to the other institutions, this is something that I do not know. I only want to say--if we are talking about this distribution [of who came from the Shinui movement and who came from the Democratic Movement]--the chairman of the council, for example, was in Shinui. However, there will be elections in 4 or 5 months. Whoever is elected will be elected, and I think that in this the problems will be solved.

[Raviv] Will the problems be solved, Professor Yadin? Sometimes the DMC appears to be an ideological supermarket, and even in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee two of the movement's representatives--Rubinstein and Zore'a--have voted in opposition. Professor Yadin, who represents the DMC, Rubinstein or Zore'a? If Rubinstein, then why have you not taken measures against Me'ir Zore'a?

[Yadin] First of all, I do not believe that this is true. I have heard it said that the DMC is a supermarket. It is not a supermarket. It is a group of people who have joined together, in my opinion, out of ideological agreement that the problems within Israeli society--both in the democratic sphere, the system of elections, and in the social sphere--should be dealt with. With respect to foreign policy, the platform that we submitted was written over a year ago. Overall, with respect to settlement, what is written in our platform is as follows: Apart from the fact that we support a democratic Jewish state and that we favor territorial compromise, it is explicitly written that we view a solution in the Jordan Valley and in the territory west of the Jordan required to defend the Jordan. It is a fact that I and my colleagues in the government called for [the issue of] these settlements to be handled by the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Of course, those members in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee who asked that these settlements not be implemented--I think that they manifested the majority opinion in the DMC.

[Raviv] In your opinion, should Me'ir Zore'a be removed from his position in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committees?

[Yadin] I am opposed to the removal of anyone. I think that everybody in the DMC--and perhaps this is what will be done when we finish the political discussion--should know exactly what the council decides, and after the council decides on a certain issue he must follow that line. I am against removing people. There will be elections and these will determine who will be the representative where. I know that people are hitting at the DMC on this issue. However, on this issue that we are speaking about now, in which there have been so many changes with As-Sadat's visit--show me a party which has been in existence for 10 or 15 years and which has had time for ideological consolidation, which does not have all kinds of contradictory opinions on these views.

[Tesler] Professor Yadin, on the public's expectations from the DMC--especially after a year from the time you descended from the academic ivory tower on this same program and you entered politics: All in all, if my feeling is right, the public is very disappointed with the DMC and perhaps with your leadership, of which they expected a little more. So we have the question, why?

[Yadin] I'll tell you. See here, the DMC is a phenomenon in Israeli politics--a party that started from nothing and within half a year became the third largest party in Israel with 15 Knesset members. We wanted a little more. We wanted to be the balance of power and then we would have been able to wield greater influence, and this was not so far off. I think that the truth of the matter is--and today everybody agrees--that in the final analysis it was us who removed the Alinement and brought about the Likud taking power. Had we gained another three and they [presumably the Alinement] two, you could have asked me this question. However, the expectations were high but people did not look at the reality that it was not us who were forming the government. At the same time there is another thing, and this is very interesting even though it concerns me...

[Tesler, interrupting] Like the difference between As-Sadat's arrival in Jerusalem and peace?

[Yadin] No, what I meant is something else. Members of the DMC come to me and complain that we have not realized this and that and I always tell them: Gentlemen, do you remember how long we have been in the government?

We have been in the government for 2 and 1/2 months. A month of this was the As-Sadat issue and it was natural that all of us should deal with that. Everybody had to organize his ministry. In the long run, when you have elections every 4 years it is assumed that time must pass before a party should be judged positively or negatively, and since we had such a meteoric rise we are expected to do this in 1 or 2 weeks. In my opinion, here we have the contradiction between expectations and deeds. However, I am convinced that we are making a big contribution.

[Tesler] Professor Yadin, we have ended our 30 minutes.

[Yadin] What, so quickly?

[Tesler] Yes, thank you.

YADIN TAKES ISSUE WITH KING HASSAN'S STATEMENT

TA260907Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 26 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin has said that the Moroccan king's statement that As-Sadat's initiative belongs to history and that the Arabs are free to adopt all measures in order to fulfill their demands was not appropriate. This is because this week we are at the height of efforts to renew the negotiations between Israel and Egypt. He especially stressed the important function played by Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton. Professor Yadin said that if there are no unexpected developments, the Military Committee will resume its deliberations next week. He was speaking with correspondents at Ben-Gurion airport prior to departing on a fund-raising mission to Britain.

The deputy prime minister will also meet with Foreign Secretary David Owen and, at Prime Minister Menahem Begin's request, will report to him on the peace moves in our region.

LIKUD MEMBERS PROTEST YADIN REMARKS ON TERRITORY

TA260839Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Likud Knesset Members Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir have presented an urgent question to the prime minister about Yadin's support for an exchange of territory with Egypt. The question was presented to the Knesset, but they also complained to the Likud faction Chairman Avraham Sharir.

RABIN DISCLOSES ALINEMENT GOVERNMENT PEACE EFFORTS

TA251543Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Former Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin disclosed that the Israeli Government had at one time privately proposed a solution to the Palestinian problem in the spirit of the present Israeli proposal, namely, to suspend the sovereignty question in the West Bank for a set period of time. Israel proposed that a joint Israeli-Jordanian rule with the participation of leaders from the territories be established in Judaea and Samaria for a period of 5 to 10 years. According to the proposal, the Jordanians and residents of the territories would undertake administrative responsibility and Israel was supposed to retain the control of defense and to decide on settlement matters. However, according to Mr Rabin, the Jordanians rejected our proposals.

Mr Rabin disclosed this in a lecture to students at Haifa University. MK Rabin believes that for all the pessimism prevailing lately, there is nonetheless a solid basis for reaching a settlement with Egypt. He called on Menahem Begin and Anwar as-Sadat not to overly entrench themselves in their positions and not to bring considerations of honor and credibility to bear on the negotiations. There is no room for such considerations in political negotiations.

DMC ISSUES CAUTION ON SETTLEMENT POLICY

TA260837Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The Democratic Movement for Change [DMC] has called on the government not to take settlement steps that would endanger the peace process. The DMC declared that the additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria at this time would be a hard blow against the negotiations. This came in a foreign policy statement approved by the DMC council last night in which support is expressed for the government's peace plan.

12 NEW SETTLEMENTS FOR YAMIT REGION REQUESTED

TA252337Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpt] The Settlement Department has submitted to the Finance Ministry a request to endorse a budget for the establishment of 12 new settlements in the Yamit region in the coming 1 and 1/2 years. The request also includes a clause for building additional economic units in the existing settlements. The intention is to add 1,000 units in the framework of the southern project with a total investment of 1.5 billion Israeli pounds. This was learned by our correspondent for settlement affairs Yig'al Goren. Our correspondent remarks that to date no answer has been received from the Finance Ministry.

In the meantime the work of preparing new areas continues in the Yamit region. Sources in the Agriculture Ministry told our correspondent that the intention is to hand over these lands to the settlers in this region for agricultural cultivation.

JERUSALEM RADIO: EGYPTIAN PRESS CONTINUES ATTACKS

TA260619Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Several newspapers in Cairo have again leveled criticism against Prime Minister Menahem Begin. AL-AHRAM maintains that Begin's accusation about anti-Semitism is an old story and that the Zionists have used this in the past to counter all criticism which pointed out Israel's inflexibility. The newspaper claims that the prime minister's positions caused the crisis in the talks. According to the newspaper, Mr Begin wanted to sow the seeds of confusion over the nature of the differences of opinion between Egypt and Israel and to mislead world public opinion.

Another Cairo newspaper, AL-AKHBAR, writes that the prime minister is continuing his war of words despite the fact that he has pledged to desist. He is not allowing the negotiations to be conducted in a calm atmosphere as was agreed, writes AL-AKHBAR.

INDIA

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATION ON EVE OF NATIONAL DAY

BK251630Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1445 GMT 25 Jan 78 BK

[Republic Day message to the nation by Indian President Sanjeeva Reddy--recorded]

[Text] Tomorrow we will celebrate the 29th Republic Day. On this joyous occasion, it is my pleasure and privilege to greet all of you, my fellow ditizens at home and abroad, and convey to you my good wishes.

A very eventful year has just passed. The common man has reaffirmed his belief in democratic values and restored our distinction as the largest living democracy in the world. On this occasion, each one of us has to ask ourselves in all humility whether we have followed the inspiring example set by the leaders of this ancient land. Have we comprehended the new national ethos and adequately responded to it? In this context it is disappointing that the professional classes as well as business and industry have not shown sufficient evidence of their being prepared to accept their share of national responsibility.

The future is unfolding itself. What are our immediate preoccupations and aspirations for the future? The coming elections to the state assemblies afford an occasion for all political parties to prove their dedication to democracy and cleanliness in public life. What is important is not the result but how it is achieved. The campaign must be conducted with dignity, only on the basis of clearcut programs and policies.

Once again our voters will have the option of choosing not their masters, but their servants. We must, as in the past, prove ourselves a mature people, pledged to the processes of democracy and the democratic way of life. Our people should be enabled to exercise their franchise without let or hindrance. My government will guarantee this, the basic birthright of every eligible voter. Let the free will of the people prevail, and all will be well, whatever the result. This is my firm belief.

Many problems loom large on the horizon. We must face them with courage and self-confidence. Some frustrated and desperate elements in our society today are determined to scuttle the principles of our democratic way of life and destroy the very fabric of our secular society. While every one of us is entitled to freedom of expression in appropriate forms, no one should be permitted to drag each and every issue to the streets, excite dormant passions, advocate disrespect for law and order and incite violence. Such a policy of unwarranted confrontation backed by provocative action on the slightest pretext is a challange we as citizens of a free country need to face with determination. Let not a few misguided and disgruntled sections of society imagine that they can hold the rest of us law-abiding citizens to ransom. Swift and stern action will be taken against anyone acting in a manner prejudicial to the national interest. Our founding fathers, among whom were the great Mahatma, the farsighted Panditji and the indomitable Sardar, won us political freedom, and laid solid foundations for our economic advancement. Are we to allow all this to be nullified by the unconscionable behavior of an irresponsible few? Freedom may yet be in peril. Let us defend it with all the might at our disposal.

The post-emergency climate has been congenial for reconciling fundamental freedoms and an open society with egalitariansim and social justice. This is the first Republic Day with which my 10-month-old government is associated. Let us not judge them hastily. Let us rather take note of what has been achieved. It has restored to public life the essential attributes of a mature democracy. On the economic front, my government has sought to concretize the Gandhian concept of employment-oriented rural development and to bridge the socioeconomic disparity between the urban and the rural areas.

For the first time since independence, our political life is not dominated by one monolithic political party. Today men of good conscience, but with varying shades of political opinion, are working together for the good of the nation. This is in itself a great achievement. Let us not isolate and exaggerate honest differences of opinion and, unwittingly perhaps, undermine the principles of collective responsibility on which good government is based. For once in our history, we stand united as a nation, India is one country and Indians are one people. Let no one underestimate our strength or take us for granted.

Our continued progress on the agricultural front and our determination to reach the benefits of planned development to the rural areas, and to the economically weaker sections of society, will better the quality of life of millions of our countrymen. This requires resolute political will and determined administrative action. To our sound and broad-based scientific and technological achievements, which have been acknowledged all the world over, we have handsomely coupled research and development to take care of the future. Today we are recognized as one of the 10 most industrially advanced nations in the world.

India's very significant manpower contribution to the UN pool of technical and administrative talent and experience is matched only by our bilateral technical assistance programs to our friends in Africa, Southeast and west Asia. While we may take justifiable pride in these achievements, we must guard against complacency in thought and action. On the other hand, we must forge ahead with hard dedicated work and the determination to succeed not only as individuals but as a nation. Our administration, relieved of its recent traumatic experience, is fortunate to have firm dynamic political leadership. The younger generation who join the various services which compose the broad spectrum of the administration are idealistic, motivated and have the capacity for hard work. Let us forge out of these qualities a result-oriented instrument to implement our plans for the future and to build the India of our dreams. Those in the administration who act without fear or favor in the national interest will have nothing to fear.

Let us not forget that in this country where the majority live below the poverty line, even the lowest-paid industrial worker either in the public or private sector or government servant is a privileged citizen. Is it not morally wrong to confer on these relatively privileged classes additional benefits merely because they are organized and vociferous? Can we ignore the larger majority because they are unorganized and inarticulate?

The inconvenience resulting from shortages and price increases must, in all fairness, be shared by all. If this is to be done, there is no escape from a start being made in limiting profits, eliminating all forms of conspicuous consumption and dealing sternly with those who commit economic and social crimes. We have to develop a new administrative culture and imbue the administration with discipline and dedication and make it responsive to the people's problems and aspirations. Only then will the benefits of planned development percolate to the grassroots of our society.

On an occasion like this, one is struck by the cohesive unity of our country in spite of several apparent diversities. Not even during the times of Ashoka nor Akbar was India politically one. The Britishers with their might and skill molded us into one large political entity. Europe consists of several nations. Can attempts now to bring them together and make one Europe succeed? Our country which is a subcontient should not be allowed to break up on any issue much less on inconsequential and sentimental issues. History has cast upon us the onerous responsibility of maintaining and strengthening the unity and vitality of our great nation. I am convinced that we can achieve this through mutual good will and understanding. Let us, therefore, resolve that no considerations, no issues and no forces will be allowed to impair our basic unity and richness of culture and heritage. We are pledged to the concept of federalism. [paragraph continues]

During the recent conference of governors, I was happy to see that there was a great measure of harmony between the central government and the state governments run by different political parties. Let us not forget that some of our leaders in the states are men of distinction with a long record of service to the country. If our political parties realize that despite their differences, they can work together for the common good of the people, and evolve agreement on major issues, problems of socioeconomic development within a democratic framework would become less difficult. All our political parties are committed to the speedy elimination of poverty, social injustice and exploitation. Harijans, the minorities and the economically vulnerable sections of society must be encouraged to increasingly participate in the mainstream of national life.

Since the launching of our first 5-year plan, our agricultural production, industrial production and exports have increased by about 200 percent, 400 percent, and 800 percent respectively; this is no doubt an impressive achievement. But the gains of development are nullified by the explosive growth of population. This vital national problem brooks no delay. It is the duty of all political parties to concertedly endeavor to prevent this national catastrophe.

On this occasion, I cannot but express the nation's gratitude to Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, who is one of the few living symbols of the Gandhian era. Let us all pray for his good health and long life to guide us in the years to come.

Today we salute our defense services who stand guard on our borders and guarantee our territorial integrity. Their courage and valor in the face of several hardships deserve our admiration and gratitude.

Friends, I have an abiding faith in the great future that awaits India. On this historic day, let us all rededicate ourselves to the formidable tasks which face the country and enter confidently into an era of hope, freedom and achievement.

Jai Hind.

BRIEFS

AIR AGREEMENT WITH GHANA--India and Ghana have signed an agreement on air service in New Delhi. The agreement provides for the operation of two weekly services by each country. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 78 BK]

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